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16 PAGES 150 FILS

Way clear for declaration of ceasefire

Iran agrees to direct talks

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 7. (Reuters): Iran agreed today to direct talks with Iraq on ending the Gulf war apparently clearing the way for a ceasefire which Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said could be announced tomorrow or Tuesday.

Iran's decision followed a statement yesterday by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein that Iraq would accept direct talks after a truce. Up until then Iraq had insisted that peace talks take place before a ceasefire.

The two developments were major breakthroughs in peace negotiations which after being stalled for two weeks, leaped forward in a weekend of intense activity at the United Nations.

Effect

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati announced his country's agreement to direct talks following a ceasefire after one of several meetings with Perez de Cuellar.

Immediately before today's key meeting at which Iran announced its agreement, the secretary-general had told report-

ers a ceasefire could go into effect in two weeks if he could get Iran and Iraq to agree on the issue of face-to-face talks.

Asked when an announcement of a ceasefire might be made, he replied: "It could be either tomorrow or day after tomorrow if there is agreement from both sides."

While hectic diplomatic activity went on at UN headquarters in New York, there was a lull in fighting as both sides anticipated a truce in an eight-year-war which has claimed more than a million lives.

Iran and Iraq reported only relatively minor clashes on the weekend.

Positive

The breakthrough was warmly welcomed by the US State Department.

"We felt the Iraqi move was a positive step. It seemed to have moved things along. And obviously things are playing out. It's up to the secretary-general to work out the details, and we fully support his efforts," a State Department spokesman said.

But a US Defence Department spokesman cautioned that, the



Perez de Cuellar

27-ship American naval task-force patrolling the Gulf would not be reduced until the fighting was completely halted.

The negotiations have been based on Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for a ceasefire, withdrawal to international borders and exchanges of prisoners of war and talks about a final peace settlement.

Iran and Iraq have been jockeying for position over the sequence of events.

The negotiations came to life on July 18 when Iran agreed to the resolution, which Iraq had accepted when it was first passed

a year ago.

For the past two weeks the talks had indeed moved forward but when Iraq announced it was no longer insisting on direct talks before a ceasefire, Perez de Cuellar cut short a weekend break to rush back to UN headquarters yesterday.

Velayati told reporters, who have been camped outside the UN for the past two days, that the level of talks and when and where they take place will be decided by the secretary-general.

Perez de Cuellar has estimated about 250 UN observers will be needed to supervise a ceasefire.

He has already received a report on the mechanics of a ceasefire from a UN military team which visited the two countries in July.

The New York Times said yesterday that 24 of 30 countries asked to take part in a peacekeeping force had agreed. The paper said the countries included Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Austria, Ghana, Fiji, Australia, Japan, Hungary and Turkey.

A UN spokesman announced the Security Council would hold private consultations later in the day.

V.P. Singh and Rama Rao to head alliance

Indian opposition fails to resolve leadership issue

NEW DELHI, Aug 7. (UPI): Former Finance Minister V.P. Singh and N.T. Rama Rao, the film star-turned-Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh state today were chosen to head an opposition alliance against Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in the next general elections.

"The aspiration of the people is for the closer co-operation of the opposition parties," said Singh, who was expelled from the Congress (I) Party in June 1987 for criticising Rajiv's handling of corruption allegations.

However, the selection of both Singh and Rao appeared to indicate that senior members of the seven-party national front were unable to resolve differen-

ces over the alliance's leadership and were forced to compromise.

The divisions over leadership and other questions have led many observers to question whether the coalition will survive to contest general elections that must be held before the end of next year.

Oppose

The alliance would be the first to oppose the Congress (I) Party in nationwide polls since a coalition led by the rightist Janata Party defeated it in 1977. However, the Janata-led government collapsed from infighting after 18 months in power.

Singh, who won an important test of strength over the Congress (I) Party in a sine-parliamentary by-election, was selected as

"convenor" of the national front and the flamboyant Rao, who parlayed his success in playing Hindu gods in films into a political career, was chosen as its chairman.

"Here is the alternative to the Congress (I)," said Rao introducing his allies at a press conference today, "dedicated to uplifting the glory and uprooting the corruption of India."

Leaders of the seven opposition groups said the front, to be formally inaugurated on Sept 16, would soon announce a 60-point platform.

The new alliance brings together seven parties that have widely diverse bases of support, but are largely moderate in their views.

The new alliance brings together seven parties that have widely diverse bases of support, but are largely moderate in their views.

Eleven deaths were reported in New Delhi, according to United News of India and Press Trust of India. At least 260 people in the capital have been admitted to hospitals suffering from suspected water-borne diseases, the agencies said.

Thirteen deaths were reported in Ahmedabad, about 650 kilometres (400 miles) southwest of New Delhi, UNI said. So far, 202 people have died there.

In central and southern Sri Lanka, Sinhalese extremists shot and killed six people during the weekend, according to the Sri Lankan military command.

The Sri Lankan command said one of the six victims of Sinhalese attacks included a Sinhalese Army lieutenant who was on home leave in Kuliapitiya, 60 kilometres (37 miles) northeast of Colombo.

Five other people were killed in the Sinhalese heartland along the island nation's south coast. Police sources said all of them were government supporters or were thought to be police informers.

About 49,000 Indian soldiers are deployed in Sri Lanka as a peacekeeping force to try to end the Tamil insurrection against the Sinhalese-dominated government and enforce a peace plan.

Government-run television

newspaper K.V. Krishnarao, New Delhi's chief representative in Nagaland, told the central Home Ministry in a letter that "a situation has arisen in the state in which the government cannot go on."

They say the 1985 elections led to communal and sectarian ten-

Three cholera deaths were reported in the northern state of Punjab, UNI said, and three others died of gastro-enteritis in southern states of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Since the outbreak was reported in early July, at least 6,226 people in the capital city of New Delhi have been admitted to hospitals suffering from suspected symptoms, the agency said. It said 818 of them had been diagnosed as suffering from cholera.

Health clinics have inoculated more than 2.5 million people against cholera, UNI said.

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INTERNATIONAL

Murphy meets Shamir

Israel rejects plans for an independent Palestinian state

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Aug. 7. (Agencies): In a rare show of unity, left and right-wing ministers in Israel's coalition government joined today in rejecting Palestinian plans for an independent Arab state in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

As Israeli leaders met US envoy Richard Murphy by Middle East peace talks, Labour minister said Israeli policy would not be swayed by Jordan's handover of responsibility for the West Bank to the PLO or reported plans for a Palestinian state.

"Neither Jordan nor the Palestinians will dictate a unilateral solution," the Labour Party statement said.

Decision

"Israel rejects out of hand any attempts to set up a new state and Israel absolutely rejects any attempt to create facts on the ground either through terror, violence or plans to set up a PLO state," it said.

The government has taken no decision on the Jordanian move nor on blueprints for an independent Arab state which have been

reported in the media over the past two days. But ministers leaving the weekly cabinet meeting said such a state was unacceptable.

Palestinians said the underground leaders in the occupied territories were about to declare statehood in a bid to make political gains from an eight-month-old uprising in which at least 248 Palestinians and four Israelis have died.

Intolerance

Welfare and Employment Minister Moshe Katsav, of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's rightist Likud Bloc, told reporters: "It is imperative that... the PLO should not fill the vacuum left by Jordan and I am confident Israel's security forces are fully capable of preventing that."

The national religious party's Yosef Shapira called for the 1978 Camp David peace accords to be scrapped, leaving Israel free to annex the territory. Shamir has already rejected similar calls.

Murphy, US Assistant Secretary of State, met Shamir for two hours in talks that he

later called useful, and he appealed to Arabs and Israelis to begin urgent talks on a political settlement.

Palestinians can break out of the current stalemate by reaching out to one another. Words and actions of accommodation must replace rhetoric of intolerance," Murphy told reporters.

He would not comment on the Palestinian independence call other than to say that Palestinians must be involved in peace talks at every stage.

No major incidents were reported in the West Bank and Gaza Strip despite a call by leaders of the uprising to stage massive demonstrations during Murphy's visit.

Demands

Shamir said in an interview published today in London that Israel will not annex the West Bank and will not negotiate with the PLO.

In an interview with the Observer newspaper, Shamir was quoted as rejecting demands from his right-wing supporters for annexation as a solution to

the problem of the occupied territories on grounds it would violate the 1978 Camp David agreement.

The Camp David accord envisages an interim period of Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank followed by negotiations for a final settlement.

"We are committed to this agreement," Shamir was quoted as saying. "The permanent status of these territories (the West Bank) is a separate subject for negotiations. We are ready to negotiate with the Palestinians. We are ready to negotiate with Egypt; we are ready to negotiate with Jordan."

But the Israeli leader stressed that the decision of King Hussein of Jordan to turn over responsibility for the West Bank to the PLO does not mean that Israel will negotiate with the PLO "and that has to be clear."

"We don't see any chance, because the PLO by its ideology,

by its philosophy, is opposed to

peace and it is unreasonable to

talk about peace with people who

are against peace," he was

quoted as saying.

Brunei job offers false

(Continued from Page 1)
the British embassy in question is situated.

The notice describes terms of employment.

The minimum annual wages, it says, are US \$20,000 and that is for "simple jobs." It also mentions benefits including housing, free board and transportation, and even opportunity to gain status as an immigrant, supposedly to help Brunei balance its population requirements.

The wages quoted in the notice are ridiculous, Banks said. "The Sultan of Brunei may be a philanthropist but even so, the salaries mentioned are unbelievable," he said.

Brunei can easily recruit labour from the Philippines and Thailand, he said, adding that Kuwait would be an unlikely place to look for a workforce. The notice stresses Brunei's links with the Arab world.

Applications

The description of Brunei in the notice is the one of a land of promise but the circular warns that "the climate is equatorial, to much raining, forests, and animals, too."

Although the notice states that there is a dire need for construction workers, it also invites applications from "technical and non-technical and administrative" professionals.

Those applications should be addressed to the Controller of Immigration in the capital of Brunei, it says, but the name of the city is misspelt.

Banks says it is clear the notice was not written by a native English speaker, noting that it contains Indian phrasology.

In the past, similar notices required applicants to send a small amount of money to a given address, Banks said. But this is not the case with this circular.

"I don't believe that this is the way Brunei would recruit labour," said Banks.

Banks said if the sultante was serious about recruiting in this part of the world it would send a labour counsellor to do the job.

Hungary to build a Disneyland

BUDAPEST, Aug. 7. (Reuter): Hungary wants to build Eastern Europe's first Disneyland, a further sign of the reform-minded communist country's desire to embrace the spirit of free market economics.

Prime Minister Karoly Grosz visited the original Disneyland in Anaheim, California, during his 10-day visit to the United States last month.

He returned home enthusiastic about what he saw, telling a radio interviewer last week that a Disneyland vice president would visit Hungary in September to discuss building a new outpost of capitalism's most famous amusement park.

The first Disneyland outside the United States opened in Tokyo in 1983 and draws 10 million visitors a year. Another is due to open outside Paris in 1992.

Hungary leads the Soviet bloc in introducing economic and political reforms. It was the first Eastern European country to open a McDonald's fast food restaurant, which began operations in Budapest in April.

Grosz pledged during the US trip to ease control over the economy and open Hungary to foreign capital.



Paramedics carry an injured passenger of a runaway train that smashed into buffers at Paris station. (Reuter wirephoto)

Following Paris trains' crash

French railroad chief quits

PARIS, Aug. 7. (AP): The president of France's state-run railroad resigned today in the wake of the second serious train wreck in six weeks. But unions claimed changing presidents only heightened concern about safety on the railroad.

The resignation of Philippe Rivooulois, 53, was accepted by Transport Minister Michel Delbarre, who said last night that instructions given by the government after an earlier accident had not been sufficiently applied. "I don't believe in fate," the minister said.

Mechanical

A suburban train crashed into a terminal barrier yesterday in Paris' Gare de l'est station, killing a 29-year-old man and injuring 57 other people. The initial investigation indicated the cause of the crash was mechanical and the brakes did not respond.

A review of the train's "black box" recorder indicated the driver correctly braked and that a slowing of the train occurred.

The company said. But the record remained on the tracks.

That was the situation yesterday when the first car slammed into the barrier, rode up on it and twisted at a right angle. The other three cars and the engine remained on the tracks.

In Bangladesh, the earthquake lasted more than one minute and was felt across a large area, prompting hundreds of people to flee in panic from swaying buildings in the capital, Dhaka.

Earthquake kills three in Assam

NEW DELHI, Aug. 7. (Agencies): A powerful earthquake that rocked the sub-continent killed three people and injured 12, a news report said today.

The Press Trust of India said the victims lived in northeastern Assam state, the hardest hit by yesterday's quake.

The news agency said two people were killed and 12 others injured when buildings collapsed during the earthquake. The third person died in a traffic accident blamed on the quake, it said.

Tremors were also felt in Dhaka, the capital of neighbouring Bangladesh, but there were no reports of casualties or damage.

The earthquake, which registered 7.3 on the Richter scale, also cracked walls and caused other property damage and triggered landslides in areas of Assam and neighbouring Manipur state.

Caused

A second, less powerful earthquake was reported seven hours later in northern India but was believed to have caused no injuries or serious damage.

The second earthquake, apparently unrelated to the first, was felt in northern India and parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Officials said. It measured 6.5 on the Richter scale and was centred in the Hindu Kush mountains.

H. L. Srivastava, director of New Delhi's seismological observatory, said the earlier "high intensity" earthquake was centred 11.820 km to the southeast inside Burmese territory, just over the border from India's tiny jungle-covered Manipur state.

In India, the shock waves rolled through a region stretching from the eastern Himalayas in the north to the Bay of Bengal in the south.

In Bangladesh, the earthquake

lasted more than one minute and was felt across a large area, prompting hundreds of people to flee in panic from swaying buildings in the capital, Dhaka.

New maps help blind find way around Washington

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7. (AP): Blind and visually impaired visitors now can rely on an unusual new set of maps to get their bearings around the monuments and landmarks of the nation's capital.

The maps, intended for free distribution through congressional offices, are 14-by 10-inch 135.5 by 48 centimetre plastic sheets that depict such landmarks as the Lincoln Memorial, the White House and the Washington Monument as bumps shaped like their actual contours. They carry legends in both English and braille.

The maps cover the Mall, Capitol Hill, Arlington Cemetery, the two Jima Memorial and other sights, as well as the floor plan of the US Capitol.

A separate map and smaller pocket guide covers the metro rapid transit system. Different geometric shapes let vision-impaired visitors know not only the subway stops but what side of the platform the train comes in on.

About \$35,000 of the \$150,000 contract went to produce six larger display modules of the maps, which will be placed around Washington.

And 20 travelling exhibits that will be lent to libraries and other places around the country.

George Covington, a legally blind interior department official who directed the "tactile capital" project, said, "these maps are unique."

Hussein will recognise ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Territories' Ministry to a newly formed department attached to the Foreign Ministry.

Dudu said the newly formed department "will take care of some social, economic and legal affairs in the occupied West Bank."

The Soviet Union has reaffirmed its support for the establishment of a Palestinian state, a PLO official said today.

Examined

The Palestinian sources said the plan for the government-in-exile, examined by leaders of the uprising in consultation with the PLO, could alternatively involve a call for UN custodianship of occupied areas.

They said the idea had gained impetus since Jordan announced an end to legal and administrative ties with the territories last week to make way for PLO leadership there.

'KGB wanted to know if I was a spy'

Rust describes his journey

LONDON, Aug. 7. (Reuter): Mathias Rust, the West German who landed his light aircraft near Moscow's Red Square, said a Soviet MiG fighter came so close to his plane during his daredevil flight that he could see the crew's faces, the Mail on Sunday reported.

Speaking in an interview published by the newspaper, Rust described how the MiG circled his Cessna plane twice in Soviet air space during his May 1987 flight.

Interrogation

"Then I was frightened, all right. The MiG came so close I could see the crew's faces. For all I knew a heat-seeking missile might be the next thing," Rust said in the interview, billed

Dukakis takes press on 'power walk'

DENVER, Colorado, Aug. 7. (Reuter): Presidential candidate Michael Dukakis, whose medical history became a campaign issue this week, took several dozen bleary-eyed reporters on his daily three-mile "power walk" at dawn on Saturday.

The Democratic nominee's campaign aides, used to puffing alongside Dukakis on his walks, calculated they have about 300 miles (500 km) to go before the Nov. 8 general election.

Dukakis this week flatly denied reports that he sought treatment for depression after his brother was killed in a car accident in 1973 and after he lost a gubernatorial primary in 1978.

The Massachusetts Governor released a medical report by his physician, who gave him a clean bill of health.

Dukakis challenged journalists covering the campaign to join him for Saturday's brisk hike round Denver's city park using a technique he calls "power walking."

Several dozen took up the challenge, jogging alongside the candidate as he strode round a lake at a rapid clip, swinging four-pound (two kilo) weights in his hands.

"There are no sprints -- this is a marathon," Dukakis said, invoking his metaphor for the presidential race. He completed the three-mile walk in under 40 minutes.

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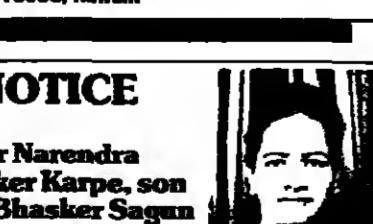
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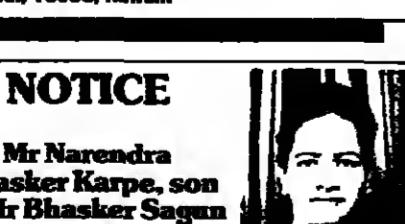
Call: 2444650



Mr. Narendra Bhaskar Karpe, son of Mr. Bhaskar Sagar Karpe, Jaiwanti Niwas, Golwalkar, Sankalim.

Goa-40305 and Miss Adeline Jerome Fernandes, daughter of Mr. Jerome Calton Fernandes, Kurbanesh Chawl, Andheri East, Bombay, both Indian nationals presently residing in Nairobi have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage he/she should file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act, rules within thirty days from the date of publication of notice.

(U.S. Embassy
Foreign and Consular
Section, Nairobi, Kenya)



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(U.S. Embassy
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Section, Nairobi, Kenya)

Move to wrest control of vacated cities

Afghan rebels to set up Army

ISLAMABAD, Aug 7. (Reuters): A guerrilla council in northern Afghanistan has proposed the creation of a regular Army to wrest cities from government control as Soviet forces leave the country, spokesmen for the group said on Saturday.

Four men forming a delegation of the so-called supervisory council of the north told a news conference they had brought the proposal to the Pakistan-based main guerrilla alliance for a decision.

They said the council, led by rebel commander Ahmad Shah Masood and operating in 10 provinces north of the capital Kabul, had suggested the Army be formed at the start with 13,000 men.

They said they wanted the alliance to provide resources for creating the proposed Army.

The Western-backed Muslim guerrillas say they control more than 80 per cent of the countryside, with the Soviet-backed Kabul government ruling only the cities.

"Scattered groups cannot win the war, we have to have an Army," council delegation leader Syed Hussain said.

Masood belongs to the

Jamiat-e-Islami party of Burhanuddin Rabbani and holds sway over a large part of northeast Afghanistan that Soviet troops must cross if they withdraw to the Soviet border by road.

Jamiat, one of the seven parties forming the guerrilla alliance headquartered in the north-western Pakistani town of Peshawar, dominates the council whose 200 members also include men from other groups.

The delegation members said they had discussed the proposal with Rabbani who had backed it but were yet to take it up with the leaders of other six parties in the alliance.

Meanwhile, Radio Kabul reported that nine people were killed and 10 others injured in a rocket attack on Afghanistan's eastern city of Jalalabad.

Friday's attack is being blamed by the Afghan government on Afghan guerrillas, who have been fighting the Soviet-backed government for more than eight years.

Afghanistan's state-run radio also said about 31 pounds (14 kilograms) of explosives were seized in the Afghan capital of Kabul.

Radio Kabul yesterday also contradicted a Pashto-language broadcast today which reported Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had left the Afghan capital.

The government-controlled radio, monitored in Islamabad, said Shevardnadze was still in Kabul and met with several federal and provincial government officials. There was no reference to the earlier report.

Radio Kabul also confirmed Soviet soldiers will be pulled out of the besieged city of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan. The terms of a United Nations brokered accord demands half of an estimated 11,500 Soviet soldiers must be out of Afghanistan by Aug 15. The remainder are to be gone by Feb 15.

According to Soviet news agency Tass, Shevardnadze met with government and military officials yesterday on the third day of his visit to Afghanistan.

The Soviet official discussed relations between his country and the pro-Soviet Afghan government and the war against anti-government insurgents in Geneva on April 14, the Soviet Union is withdrawing its soldiers from Afghanistan.

military men, Tass said. Among those he met were Shah Nawaz Tanai, the Afghan military chief of staff, and Interior Minister Sayed Mohammad Ghulabzoi, Tass said.

It provided little detail of Shevardnadze's talks with the officials.

Shevardnadze arrived on Thursday in Kabul, the Afghan capital, on a previously unannounced working visit. The previous day he met with Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Sabahuddin Yaqub Khan, in Moscow, and accused Pakistan of terrorism for its continued support of the rebels.

Shevardnadze met with Afghan President Najib on Friday.

The Soviet Union sent soldiers to Afghanistan in December 1979 to replace one pro-Soviet government with another, and to fight the rebels. Since then more than 13,000 Soviet soldiers have been killed in the fighting.

Under the terms of an agreement reached among the United States, Pakistan, the Soviet Union and Afghanistan in Geneva on April 14, the Soviet Union is withdrawing its soldiers from Afghanistan.



Thatcher listens to girls singing to her in a Kampuchean refugee camp on the Thai-Kampuchea border. (Reuter wirephoto)

Thatcher meets Kampuchean leader

BEIJING, Aug 7. (AP): Twenty thousand Chinese peasants raided a watermelon patch in central China last month and made off with a fortune in the nation's most coveted summer fruit, according to a report.

The incident, reported by the Legal Daily (Fazhi Ribao), was the most serious case of melon looting reported this year in what has become a perennial problem for China's watermelon growers.

The report said the peasants on July 11 picked clean a 167-hectare (412-acre) field jointly contracted by 260 farmers in Zhengyang county.

The farmers, who "pledged and tried their best to prevent the looters," sustained losses of 2.1 million yuan (\$568,000), it said. Thirty were seriously injured while trying to stop the melon thieves.

The daily said peasants, jealous of the success of the watermelon farmers, began gathering around the field of ripened melons on July 8. Local police prevented looting on that day, but the crowds swelled over the next few days to 20,000 on July 11. By the time police arrived that day, it was too late.

Mrs Thatcher met at site B camp by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, a former monarch whose Army is allied with two other guerrilla groups battling Vietnamese forces that invaded Kampuchea in late 1978.

Mrs Thatcher will also visit a hospital and library there, and present a portion of Britain's annual humanitarian aid to the refugees.

The United Nations-aided camp is in Surin province, about nine kilometres (5.5 miles) from the Kampuchean border. Its bamboo and thatched-roof huts shelter more than 53,000 refugees who fled a devastating 1985 Vietnamese offensive that overran every major guerrilla stronghold along the Thai-Kampuchean border.

Mrs Thatcher was on the second day of the first visit to Thailand by a British Prime Minister since World War II. She arrived from Malaysia, where she stopped briefly for talks with Prime Minister Mahathir

Mohamed, after a six-day visit to Australia.

She was greeted at Bangkok airport by outgoing Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda, who introduced her to his successor, flamboyant millionaire and former diplomat Chatichai Choonhaven. Two days earlier, Chatichai became the nation's first elected Prime Minister in 12 years.

Before returning home Tuesday and 21 centimetres (over eight inches) of rain fell without a break in the next 13 hours, according to the minister.

Sudan, whose 23 million people are among the poorest in the world, appealed to the United Nations in June for help in dealing with drought.

Last week, Sudan declared itself a locust-infested area and appealed for international help to combat 30 swarms eating their way through scarce crops.

The country's problems have been worsened by a major refugee problem as thousands flee north from fighting in the south between government forces and rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

311 found alive after floods in China

BEIJING, Aug 7. (AP): Rescuers located 311 people who had been missing and presumed dead after flash floods and heavy rains ravaged a province on the Chinese coast, a newspaper reported.

The Xinmin Evening News (Xinmin Wanbao) reported that 50 people were still missing from the floods that hit Zhejiang province on July 29-30. In all, 264 people have been confirmed dead in the disaster. The economic loss has been estimated at more than 600 million yuan (\$162 million), the paper said.

"Using a variety of methods... 311 people have been found," the paper said. It did not elaborate.

Local officials interviewed by telephone shortly after the disaster said it was the worst rain in 100 years.

Qiu Weikang, an official from the flood-hit city of Ningbo, said 460 millimetres (18 inches) of rain fell in a few or six hours period in parts of five hard-hit counties near Ningbo, a prosperous commercial city on the East China Sea.

The Evening News said the flood destroyed 27,000 houses and 944 schools. More than 52,000 people have been given temporary shelter, it said.

More than 800 people have died in floods this year in coastal, southern and northern China. Another 500 were killed by a heat wave in cities in the Yangtze River valley.

The most recent flood occurred yesterday morning in Shanxi province in northern China. The official Xinhua news agency reported that at least 21 people died and 19 others were missing after Fenyang county was hit by more than three hours of rain.

Pakistani mourners burn US, Soviet flags

PESHAWAR, Aug 7. (AP): Flags of the United States, and Soviet Union were torched yesterday during a funeral service for the assassinated Pakistani Shi'ite leader Arif Hussain Al Hussaini.

An unidentified assassin shot Hussaini, 42, early Friday, and no one has claimed responsibility. Sporadic demonstrations broke out in several Pakistani cities following the shooting but were quickly brought under control.

About 5,000 wailing and weeping mourners converged on Jinnah Park in the old city of the Frontier capital beating their chests and heads and burning flags.

Greet

Pakistan President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq was greeted by demonstrators chanting anti-Zia slogans, when he arrived at the park to offer prayers for Hussaini.

He was accompanied by his caretaker government officials as well as several provincial government representatives.

The head of Iran's Islamic Propagation Organisation, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, attended the funeral. Iran yesterday reportedly declared a national day of mourning because of the Shi'ite leader's death.

Hussain Asghar, a mourner from Hangu, about 50 miles (80 km) south of Peshawar, said: "Hussaini believed in pan-Islamism and his murder was to separate Islam."

Violent

He warned: "We (Shi'ites) believe in taking revenge... The revenge will be decided by the central committee of (Hussaini's political party)."

However Asghar ruled out violent clashes between Pakistani Sunnis and Shi'a Muslims.

"We believe Sunnis and Shias will not quarrel. Eighty per cent of Pakistan's Sunnis condemned the murder and Sunnis have come to pay their respects," he said.

In the mid-1970s Hussaini was expelled from Iraq after being accused of stirring anti-government unrest and later studied in Iran.

Libya ready to open embassy in Chad

TUNIS, Aug 7. (UPI): Libya is ready to open an embassy in the Chadian capital of N'Djamena and allow Chad to open a mission in Tripoli, Libyan leader Col. Muammar Khaddafi was quoted as saying today.

Khaddafi made the surprise statement last night after talk with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in the Libyan capital, the official Tunisian news agency TAP said.

"Libya has sufficient courage and credibility to state that it places itself in a position of neutrality regarding this problem," TAP quoted Khaddafi saying.

Ben Ali had two hours of talks on the telephone with Chadian President Hissen Habre before he went to Tripoli Saturday for his first visit to Libya since he seized power in November from "senile" President Habib Bourguiba, official sources said.

If Khaddafi went ahead with efforts to open a "people's bureau" or embassy in Chad it would be a remarkable about turn for the Libyan强man.

Students clash with officials

Three shot dead in Burma

RANGOON, Aug 7. (Reuters): Burmese police have killed at least three people and wounded 20 in spreading anti-government riots in Burma, the state press said yesterday.

An emergency decree banning public gatherings was slapped on Pegu, nearby Thanatipin and northern Yenanyaung after high school students and townspeople clashed with officials on yesterday, News Agency Burma (NAB) said.

Sein Lwin, who took over as ruling party chairman and state President in late July, has become the focus of protest because of his role in the suppression of dissent throughout the 26-year rule of his predecessor N Win.

Discontent

His government faces discontent over police repression and failing living standards.

Pegu and nearby Thanatipin are about 80 km (50 miles) north of Rangoon, which was put under martial law on Wednesday to preempt student-led calls for a massive antigovernment protest tomorrow.

Fires kill five in Algeria

ALGIERS, Aug 7. (AP): Five people died and at least 32 were injured in forest fires last week in the Kabyle mountains near Bejaia, the official Algerian news agency reported.

Sixteen separate fires broke out Tuesday and Wednesday in the hills around Bejaia while midday temperatures soared to 48 degrees Centigrade (118°F).

The harbour town of Bejaia and its 130,000 inhabitants were virtually cut off from communications by land at one time, apparently explaining why the state-run Algerian media failed to mention the fires for several days.

The news agency said about 1,000 vacationers threatened by the flames at a beach resort in the Aigues forest near Bejaia had to be rescued by a flotilla of small boats.

The fire services of cities as far away as Batna, 180 kilometres to the south, were summoned to the scene.

US won't deal with Filipino kidnappers

ILIGAN, Philippines, Aug. 7 (UPI): The United States refuses to negotiate with Muslim kidnappers holding an American and his Filipino wife hostage in a remote southern jungle, a diplomat said today.

The diplomat, US consul Frank Huddle disclosed the United States' unwillingness to make a deal with the kidnappers after he met briefly with American military officials.

Philippine authorities, meanwhile, appealed through an emissary for the release of David Stifter, 47, and his wife Eplida Benuya by the outlaw gang that abducted the two from a public minibus one week ago.

Negotiations

The kidnappers, believed to have broken away from one of several Muslim separatist armies active in the island of Mindanao, reported through messengers yesterday that the couple was "alive and well" and that demands for their release would be presented soon.

Three Philippine businessmen kidnapped by the same group a week earlier have been found dead, the military said yesterday. Huddle, US consul in the center city of Cebu, flew with two military attaches today to the city of Iligan, 50 km north of where the hostages are believed held.

The hostages are thought to be held in Ganazzi, a small jungle-bound village on the shore of Lake Lanao in Lanao del Sur province.

"The US government will not negotiate with any kidnapper," Huddle said.

"We are leaving this matter to the Philippine government," he added from the airplane at Iligan airport.

"So far we are satisfied by the way the military is handling the case."

Resos said a reformed rebel commander, Jamil Lucman, had sent an emissary to find the kidnappers and advise them that Stifter cannot personally pay a requested ransom, which sources said was set at 100,000 pesos (\$5,000).

"He is just a construction worker," said Resos, who also warned the military would resume search-and-rescue operations if the couple had not been released within 15 days, despite warnings the two will be killed if a rescue is attempted.

voting for new deputies. The same house has chosen three presidents since 1972.

Political analysis say the United States, Syria and Israel are the main powers jockeying for influence in the polls.

But the final decisions will be for Damascus, which has 25,000 troops in Lebanon and has established itself as the leading force in determining the outcome.

The analysts say Washington is interested in ensuring smooth elections in co-operation with Syria to boost the chances of an overall Middle East peace settlement.

They say Israel has taken a low profile in the polls, contrary to the powerful role it played after its 1982 invasion when Bashir Gemayel was elected, only to be assassinated by a bomb three weeks later.

But Israel, they say, does not want a president who will challenge its presence in the south, where it maintains a border "security zone," or one completely aligned to Syria.

Scores of lawyers and businessmen are reported to be running in the forthcoming polls, but so far only three politicians have declared their candidacies.

"Twelve per cent said they did not care who won."

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Iraqi minister arrives

IRAQI Interior Minister, Samir Abdulwahab, arrived in Kuwait yesterday for an official visit.

He was received at the airport by Interior Minister Sbeikh Salem Al Sabah, Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Asim Yacoub and acting Interior Undersecretary Brigadier Mohammed Ahmed Al Qabandi.

The Iraqi minister told reporters that his visit aims at increasing co-operation between the interior ministries of the two states.

Sheikh Salem said the visit is mutually beneficial for both Kuwait and Iraq.

He said that there are many issues that need to be settled, including border demarcation and movement of commerce.

Robberies

IT has been learnt that 10 commercial shops in the Dawiya complex were broken into recently by number of thieves. Well-informed sources said that the robberies occurred during noon prayers on Friday. The watchman informed the Capital police and Acting Commander Major Yacoub Al Najadah rushed to the scene.

UK warship nearly downed cargo plane

LONDON, Aug 7, (AP): A British warship came within 10 seconds of shooting down a civilian aircraft over the Gulf near the United Arab Emirates, a newspaper reported today.

The weekly Observer, quoting unnamed air traffic controllers in Dubai, reported the destroyer HMS Cardiff last year targeted surface-to-air missiles at a cargo plane.

Highlighted

The Observer did not specify the date or further identify the plane, but said the alleged incident had never previously been disclosed.

Air traffic controllers quoted by the newspaper said the incident highlighted the dangers of foreign warships operating in the Gulf, where Iran and Iraq have both attacked shipping in their eight-year war.

The Cardiff was on routine escort duty when the cargo plane flew over the ship by mistake and the pilot was not linked to an emergency military radio frequency that could have been used to warn him, the newspaper quoted the controllers.

When the pilot did not respond to warnings from the ship, the Observer said, "preparations were made to shoot down the

plane. Anti-aircraft missiles were within 10 seconds of being launched when a final check revealed the plane was not hostile."

The Observer reported no comment from the Royal Navy.

The air traffic controllers also said a US navy warship once ordered a British Airways flight to change course and nearly caused it to crash into another aircraft.

The Dubai air traffic controllers said they "swiftly countermanded" the order from the US Navy ship and avoided a collision between the two planes, the Observer reported.

No comment from the US Navy was reported.

Inquiry

The article follows an inquiry by the United States into the July 3 downing by the guided-missile cruiser USS Vincennes of an Iran Air jetliner, killing all 290 people aboard.

A Defence Department report blamed the incident on human error by radar operators without combat experience, who wrongly informed Capt. Will C. Rogers the airliner appeared to be an attacking fighter, Defence Department officials said. The report also blamed the accident on stress under combat with Iranian gunboats.

Physiotherapy hospital will be renovated

THE director of Sulaihkhath Physiotherapy Hospital, Dr Abdul Raheem Al Zaid, said that the Ministry of Public Health will renovate wards of hospitals instead of building a new hospital as a cost-cutting measure.

He added that the ministry allocated KD27 million to build a physiotherapy hospital. However, work to renovate wards of the present hospital began in 1985 and have cost KD3 million.

The director said that the ministry will build a new outpatient facility to replace the present one.

on an area of 10,000 square metres. The facility will contain all physiotherapy requirements, including swimming pools, a laboratory and a pharmacy. The ministry allocated KD1.6 million to the outpatient facility, he said.

Prefer

He added that a Kuwaiti family financed the construction of two wards at the hospital. One ward is designated for men and the other for children and contains swimming pools, games and treatment rooms. Construc-

tion of the two wards will begin shortly, Al Zaid said.

He pointed out that the hospital lacks sufficient physiotherapists and technicians. There is also a big demand for private rooms at hospitals, although authorities prefer patients to stay in open rooms, the director added.

Al Zaid said that the hospital co-operates with social welfare houses of the Ministry of Social Affairs in treating guests of these houses and provides treatment of patients who come from Yemen, Bahrain and Lebanon.

He said that some offices began employing students and some trainees to avoid losses.

Airlines and their agents in the country do not co-operate with travel offices, he said.

Some agents stopped supply-

ing air tickets to the offices because they can sell directly at higher rates and avoiding paying the commission to the offices, he said.

Mane Al Mane, who recently resigned as a member of the Board of Directors of the Union of Travel Agencies, stressed that contrary to popular belief, of travel offices are not favouring any ticket price hike. All they want are fixed prices, he said.

Another owner said the market is still full of "parasites".

He added that some airiners compensate the loss in their flights by providing low standard meals.

Violate

For example, some of these "parasites" exploited the KAC decision to stop flights to Bangkok by raising the fares, he said.

Some of them exploit the rush season and raise fares by as much as 400 per cent, he added.

He said that there are still many airlines who violate the applied part of the law.

For example, KAC engages

only 30 per cent of Kuwait-London route, while British Airways has another 40 per cent. The rest goes to airlines who have no connection with this route — a clear violation of the Aviation Law, he said.

Al Drami said the only reason he is running his office is with the hope that the other part of the law will be implemented.

Employing

He disclosed that his office pays KD3,000 monthly, including the salaries of employees. He said that airline companies now demand hundreds of thousands of Kuwaiti dinars from travel offices in the country and these offices cannot make good.

Al Drami said the only reason he is running his office is with the hope that the other part of the law will be implemented.

They claimed that the many notifications, circulars and other forms of warning issued by the directorate or by the Union of Travel Agencies, do not stop ongoing violations in the travel market.

The law still to be applied concerns the rates of tickets and fines for violations, they added.

Business owners interviewed by a local daily criticised the General Directorate of the Civil Aviation for blocking or postponing implementation of clauses of the law.

Delay

Owners considered the delay in implementation of the law in full as a violation of the law because no other law was issued to permit officials to delay the application of any clause of the law, owners said.

They accused the directorate of being biased against travel agencies in applying only part of the law which protects consumers and not the travel agencies.

Owners claimed that they suffered huge losses during the year which threatens to bankrupt them. What adds insult to injury they said.

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The US government has announced that it will offer compensation to the families of the Airbus victims, but it will not make any payments to the government of Iran.

State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer, in congressional testimony released yesterday said, "The damage caused in firing upon Flight 655 was incidental to the lawful use of force."

Families

Sofaer said: "The government of Iran should not have allowed gunboats to attack our vessels and aircraft. That government also should not have allowed a passenger airplane to fly over a battle zone — especially when it was not equipped and prepared to respond to our Navy's repeated warnings."

The commander of the USS Vincennes evidently believed that his ship was under imminent threat of attack from a hostile aircraft, and he attempted repeatedly to identify or contact the aircraft before taking defensive action. Therefore, the United States does not accept legal responsibility for this

deficiencies.

Meanwhile, Pentagon officials are complaining that the investigation report on the attack of the Airbus is taking "an easy way out" by emphasizing crew error and failing to address shortcomings in the Navy's shipboard Aegis air defence system.

Three Pentagon Aegis system specialists said that the half-billion dollar computer system has deficiencies that contributed to the confusion leading to the disaster.

As a result, the system's sensors were not integrated to deal effectively with the threat of fast-approaching aircraft, especially since the ship "is weak" in aircraft identification sensors, they said.

The system has bad its

problems and blaming people is an easy way out," a Navy official implies wrongdoing."

Sofaer said the US government has not determined how much compensation — known as "ex gratia" or "from grace" payments — will be given to the families. In past cases, such as the 1967 Israeli attack on the USS Liberty and the 1973 Israeli shooting down of a Libyan airliner, "ex gratia" payments ranged from about \$20,000 per person to approximately \$50,000.

Incident and is not paying reparations, a word which implies wrongdoing."

A systems analyst knowledgeable about the Vincennes noted that the Aegis "is not able to identify hostile aircraft."

Rather, he said, the Aegis is "mainly a radar that detects and acquires a target, friend or foe."

Data

The Aegis cannot identify the targets it picks up, these sources said.

The three analysts said the Aegis spews out so much data in a brief period of time that the crew has difficulty analysing and processing it in time to make intelligent decisions.

"There is simply too much stuff coming in too fast," one specialist said.

And in the case of the Vincennes, they said, the Aegis shipboard system was configured to meet the possibility of attacks by land-based Iranian Silkworm missiles — the predominant threat.

A former senior Navy official with extensive Aegis experience said the Aegis-equipped Vincennes was "the wrong ship in the wrong environment."

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Kuwait praised for holding marine week

HEADS of the GCC delegation taking part in the 5th Marine Week being held here said such an event can help strengthen ties between the GCC youths and encourages them to continue old traditions.

Pioneer

At a press conference held on Saturday at the Stabak Sea Club the officials thanked Kuwait for holding such events and expressed their readiness to participate in future events.

Diving

The main event, the diving trip, will begin on Monday and will continue for five days.

Divining

The divers strive to imitate their ancestors in searching for pearls.

activities, Abdulla Al Jarallah, praised Kuwait's efforts in this field. He said that Kuwait is a pioneer in reviving the old heritage, especially that of the marine heritage.

The head of the Bahraini delegation, Abdul Rahman Al Manai, said he is looking forward to more activities. He had particular praise for the diving school and described it as an important part of the training of the GCC youth.

Murad Al Ali, the head of the UAE delegation, said that after the discovery of oil the people of

the GCC states forsook the important professions like diving.

However, he added that all the Gulf states have started paying great attention to the old professions, particularly diving. He called for improving the diving school by providing it with modern facilities and equipment.

The head of the Saudi Arabian delegation to the week's

activities, Abdulla Al Jarallah, praised Kuwait's efforts in this field. He said that Kuwait is a pioneer in reviving the old heritage, especially that of the marine heritage.

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EVENTS

KUWAIT ARAB TIMES

JULY 1988

Touching the heart

By Elora Shehabuddin

"ALL I have to do is pout and you become utterly miserable; how will you cope if I get married?" daughter asks father when he suggests she finally explore the world beyond papa.

Hum To Chale Pardes starts off on a familiar note: the mother dies at childbirth, leaving her husband with the baby and under oath to never remarry. But then, rather than trailing off into a side-story, the film scrutinises the developing father-daughter relationship and its effect on others.

Shashi Kapoor gives one of his better performances as the doting father. Mandakini plays the daughter, Priya; she can't act but she does beautify the sets and that's always useful as a contingency measure. In any case, her role doesn't require much — other than a few tantrums, dances and replays of the spoilt-brat routine.

Rajeev Kapoor seems to have developed into a mature actor. As Ajay, he portrays effectively the hurt and anger that he feels as his wife, Priya, tries to organise her life and balance her emotions between him and her father.

The scenes designed to show Priya's reluctance to start afresh with her husband may appear somewhat contrived but they serve their purpose.

Priya rushes off to check on her father when she finds out he has a headache ... and neglects to take her mother-in-law to see a specialist about a kidney stone. So far, so good, and very effective. Then, Ajay comes home from work to find his mother sulking because she has missed her appointment. One cannot help but find discrepancies in the sorrowful tale of an otherwise independent and liberated woman who is unable to go to the doctor without her teenage daughter-in-law's help.

The film is refreshing in that no obscenities are hurled across the screen every three minutes.

For those out there who lust for blood and gore, there is only one fight sequence; fortunately I suppose, Ajay, the mild-mannered businessman from London, dons his superhero cape in the nick of time. The fight has little bearing on the story other than prematurely putting an end to the couple's honey-moon.

With an uncluttered plot and cast, **Hum To Chale Pardes** is a touching movie and even die-hard cynics may find themselves blinking away stray tears.

Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani

A nasty mother, a son named Ram, a daughter-in-law called Sita, and a "Laxman jaya" brother — shades of the great epic, eh? — make up the incredible family of **Ghar Ghar**

Ki Kahani. The venom-spitting mother is an important character, for all the misery and strife she creates, but Shashikala, a relic of the sixties, reduces the role to a comic one with her histrionics.

Rishi Kapoor plays Ram, whose blissful marriage turns shaky when circumstantial evidence convinces him his wife is messing around with his younger brother, Amar (Govinda). But Jayaprada seems destined to go through life playing the perfect wife and Ram's suspicions are groundless.

Amar adores his "hbhi" — a "mother-friend" is the term he uses — but he would much rather serenade Asha (Faris) and rescue her from the evil clutches of, first, a carfull of armed louts, and then, her own sister-in-law. The story isn't necessarily complicated but exploring the finer details in such a large family can be a lengthy process. To economise on time, I guess, the Amar-Asha courtship is confined to love at first sight and a song-and-dance number.

Keshar Rathod's screenplay, and Kader Khan's dialogue should incite few complaints even though the story is a little difficult to stomach: it takes an entire family about 30 years to overthrow a thoroughly rude and obnoxious matriarchal figure? True, even the French Revolution underwent a period of fermentation before 1789; yet when the revolution came, it was a long and bitter struggle.

All Shashikala's husband (Kader Khan) has to do is pick up his walking-stick and thrash the evil out of her which takes, perhaps, all of five minutes. Something of an anti-climax.

The comedy scenes do manage to drag out some laughs, but then, so do Shashikala's never-ending tirades. **Ghar Ki Kahani** should do well in the field of light family entertainment.

Agni Sanket

This Bengali movie, directed by Arup Datta, deals with an old theme, today's political corruption and the ever-increasing distance between the country's leaders and the common masses, but in a novel manner.

An important political figure collapses and dies during a rally. The bespectacled gods above direct his spirit into that



Shashi Kapoor gives a particularly strong performance as the doting father in *Hum To Chale Pardes*.

of a dying "commoner," played by Soumitra Chatterjee. The latter recovers from his heart attack, filled with, shall we say, new life. He is disgusted and amazed as he experiences the societal evils created by the recently-deceased politician.

The story, by Sanjiv Chatterjee, explores a great many of today's harsh realities. The opening scenes are particularly graphic: footage of floods, famine and disease alternate with images of the lifestyles of the rich and famous. The film also stars Shatabdi Ray and Rabi Ghosh.

Indrani

Although this film was made about 30 years ago, it has only recently appeared on video in Kuwait. It stars Suchitra Sen and the late Uttam Kumar, perhaps the most popular on-screen couple of West Bengal.

Indrani (Suchitra) is born into a rural family at a time when funds are particularly depleted — her father has channelling everything into starting a newspaper, and a daughter is an undesirable burden. Her father soon realises that it would be wiser to invest in his daughter's future, and he educates her: it should make it easier to find a husband who won't clamour for a dowry. The newspaper doesn't last.

Indrani goes away to college in Calcutta, where she falls for her room mate's brother Sudarsan. She marries him despite opposition opposition from her father. Sudarsan is of a different caste and involved in research, that is, not gainfully employed. The Datta family, who exulted her to the highest heavens when she was only their daughter's roomie, turns against her after the wedding.

Indrani and Sudarsan leave the family home and she finds work. He doesn't — at first. When he does, the pay is meagre. Feeling useless, bored and threatened, he leaves.

Indrani is no weepy-eyed clinging female, even by today's exacting standards. She survives until they meet up again and start all over on a more equal footing.

It is a good movie but does not compete with some of their better efforts, such as *Haram Shoor*, *Pathe Holo Deri* and *Agniparkha*. Bengali films are not renowned for the quality of their video recording but this one is especially bad. Then again, the prospect of sore eyes and a splitting headache has never yet deterred a dedicated Suchitra-Uttam fan. If the story doesn't appeal to you, I strongly recommend the music. But I confess that's a very biased opinion: I am yet to recover from my childhood crush on Hemanta Mukherjee and "Shujjo dobrabari."

Indrani goes away to college in Calcutta, where she falls for her room mate's brother Sudarsan. She marries him despite opposition opposition from her father. Sudarsan is of a different caste and involved in research, that is, not gainfully employed. The Datta family, who exulted her to the highest heavens when she was only their daughter's roomie, turns against her after the wedding.

Indrani and Sudarsan leave the family home and she finds work. He doesn't — at first. When he does, the pay is meagre. Feeling useless, bored and threatened, he leaves.

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya. Tel: 471-2900.



Jayaprada: forever the faithful wife

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Islamic Arts Museum

The museum, located on Arab Gulf Street, is open from 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4.30 to 7.30 pm, Saturday to Thursday. A collection of the finest Islamic art objects are on show.

Tareq Rajab Museum

The museum in Jahriya houses a collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world. Summer timetings are 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm. Sat thru Thurs. On Friday the museum is open only in the mornings.

Kuwait Science Museum

The museum will be open to the public every evening from 5 pm and from 9 am on Friday.

SOCIAL

Onam Festival

The *Vishwabharathi Thira* in Abhasiya, will celebrate Onam on Aug 25 at the Indian Arts Circle. IAC President M. Mathews will be the chief patron. The programme comprises Onam songs, Mohiniyattam, classical dances, Thiruvathirakkali, folk dances, light music, one-act play, boat race and Kerala rural arts. Those interested in taking part contact Lazar Varughese — 4314511; Thomas Perumpilly — 4810490 ext. 207; Verghese Paradyayil — 2422973.

Varca Sporting Centre

Varca Sporting Centre will organise an evening of games and entertainment at the Tent SAS on September 22, 1988. Music will be provided by Top Ranks and Next of Kin. Further details later.

Y.M.C.A.

The Y.M.C.A. will present the "Come September Ball" at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel on September 1. Highlights include the selection of the Queen of Queens. Top Ranks will be in attendance.

Bangladesh variety show

Bangladeshi children will present a variety performance in mid-September. The date and venue will be announced later. Those interested in taking part, please contact Jayati or Farzana.

Indian Independence Day

On the occasion of the Independence Day of India, August 15, there will be a flag hoisting ceremony at 8.30 am at Embassy premises, 34 Iftiqal St.

Indian Arts Circle

The Indian Arts Circle will stage a programme at 7.30 pm, Aug 18, to mark the end of a year's celebration of the 40th anniversary of India's independence. All Indians are cordially invited.

Summer Belle 88

The United Goans Centre will hold their annual Summer Belle 88 contest on August 11 at the SAS Hotel's Tent. The gala event marks the 10th anniversary of UGC. Entertainment includes music by Stepping Stones and City Limits. For further details contact Tony Goncalves — 261204 or Joe Fernandes 5655140.

Malayalam debate

A series of debates on Malayalam cinema are being held this month. The topics are: A discussion on the important creations of Malayalam cinema (Aug 12); the different stages of cinema production and its influence on entertainment (Aug 19).

The discussions will be carried out mainly in Malayalam. For information on time and venue, please contact Kurum, 4814477.

D'Assissi Association

The association will hold a social evening-cum-variety show on August 11 at Messiah Beach Hotel. The event is part of the 40th anniversary of Indian independence. Top Ranks and Next of Kin will be in attendance. For details contact Leena — 2469811, 9.30 am to 5 pm; Henry 3291909 (am) 3717346 (pm) or August on 5746754 after 6 pm.

HOTELS

At the Holiday Inn

Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop offers international buffet meals at lunch and dinner from 6 am to 1 am; à la carte also available. Fresh pastries and cakes can be bought every day at Vienna's Cafe. The Hanging Babylon Gardens are ideal for a period of quiet relaxation.

On Wednesday, join the Sha-

hrazed barbecue at the poolside; there will be games, prizes and surprises. On Thursday, enjoy music and food at the Arabian Night at the Al Andalus Supper club. Al Dana offers a special treat for children at the Friday brunch, open from 11 am to 3 pm.

Recreation facilities include squash and tennis courts, male/female gymsnasiums with saunas, solaria, whirlpools, and massage and relaxation rooms.

At the Hilton

La Palma has introduced a new 12-day buffet cycle featuring Arab specialties; open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner, from 6.30 am to midnight.

At the Faialka restaurant, select from a wide variety of dishes to make your own table top buffet. The Magnetic Band provides live music in the evenings. Open every day 12.30 pm and 7.30-11.30 pm.

Ice-cream, cold drinks and this week's special coconut pie — are available at La Paris. Open daily 10.30 am - 10.45 pm.

At the Sheraton

Enjoy Italian cuisine and live entertainment by the Sienna's Duo at the Riccardo restaurant. Riccardo is closed on Fridays.

At Hambra features authentic Lebanese cuisine every Sunday and seafood specialities on Wednesday nights; a sumptuous buffet is offered on Fridays. Live entertainment is provided by the Lords.

The Hunt Room offers a variety of meat and fish preparations at lunch and dinner.

Arab world specialities are available every Thursday evening at Le Tarboche. A buffet lunch and dinner is offered on Fridays.

The Coffee Shop features a wide range of international cuisine and has a daily special.

At the Meridian

La Brasserie offers Friday brunch from 12 noon to 4 pm; also open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Beat the summer heat with cool juices offered in the lobby lounge; musical entertainment is provided in the evenings.

At the Continental

The Darbar offers a daily lunch buffet with a wide range of Indian kebabs and curries. À la carte for dinner.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

In order to have good soldiers, a nation must always be at war — Napoleon Bonaparte, French general — statesman (1769-1821).

Baker will strengthen Bush campaign

By Michael Posner

WASHINGTON. (Reuter) Republicans are looking to outgoing Treasury Secretary James Baker to breathe new life into the struggling presidential campaign of Vice-President George Bush, who is lagging behind Democratic rival Michael Dukakis.

Bush's aides say there is nothing wrong with their organization but Baker should provide extra muscle in the run up to the Nov 8 presidential election.

President Reagan, saying "if there ever was a Reaganesque you're it," announced on Friday that Baker was resigning his treasury post to manage Bush's campaign from Aug 17 — the day Bush is due to be nominated for president by the Republican Party convention in New Orleans.

Baker will be succeeded as treasury secretary by New York investment banker Nicholas Brady.

Democratic National Committee Chairman Paul Kirk commented: "Jim Baker will bring added supervision to the Bush for president campaign and congratulate him on his appointment."

Crackdown

He urged Baker to crackdown on any Bush aides for "peddling false and damaging rumours about governor Mike Dukakis to the media.

Bush has denied knowledge about any rumour spreading, an apparent reference to recent talk — denied by Dukakis — that the Democrat once had treatment for mental depression.

Bush's aides said that Baker, both a national and international figure, would be able to bring organisational skills and political experience to their effort to succeed Reagan in the White House.

He also will be able to give new direction to the campaign, often seen by analysts as floundering without focus.

Sheila Tate, Bush's spokeswoman, said: "Baker, who will carry the title 'Campaign Chairman,' would give new prominence to the presidential effort."

"He'll bring great depth and wisdom and experience and leadership," Tate said. "He's the vice-president's closest friend."

Central American peace plan stagnant

By Alister Doyle

TEGUCIGALPA. (Reuter) A year after Central American presidents surprised the world by signing a regional peace accord, their plan has stagnated as guerrilla wars in the region continue to push up a death toll that already exceeds 100,000.

But each of the five Central American nations wants to keep working for peace under the plan, agreed in the Guatemalan town of Esquipulas on Aug 7, 1987.

"I keep insisting on the Costa Rican model, that seeking solutions through negotiation and dialogue is the only solution to Central American problems," Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, the author of the plan who won the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize, said on Friday.

The plan has had some successes — hundred of political prisoners have been released, democracy has been widely debated, talks between guerrillas and governments were held for the first time in Nicaragua and Guatemala and for the first time since 1984 in El Salvador.

Break

But all the talks have broken down and prospects are bleak of a negotiated end to any of the conflicts in the region of 25 million people.

"There is no peace in El Salvador, there is no peace in Guatemala, and in Nicaragua there have been no deaths for five months, but not as a product of a stable and negotiated ceasefire," Arias said.

Any remaining enthusiasm for the plan reflects more the lack of alternatives than a belief that the plan, dismissed last year by President Reagan as "fatally flawed," might suddenly work.

The five presidents had planned to meet on Aug 7 to review progress in the Esquipulas plan, but decided it was not worth while.

Under the original document, ceasefires in guerrilla wars,

Tehran launches diplomatic offensive**Softer words winning Iran international acceptance**

By John Baggaley

TEHRAN. (Reuter) A diplomatic offensive based on realism and softer words is winning Iran new international acceptance after years of isolation, diplomats in Tehran say.

"There is insufficient evidence to suggest that the moves to end isolation are not just temporary phenomena," said one foreign observer who has lived in Iran for eight months.

Diplomats said a flurry of new diplomatic links and groundbreaking visits showed an acceptance of Iran not seen since the 1979 siege of the American embassy. The eight years of war with Iraq, and charges that Tehran was involved in Lebanese hostage-taking.

"We have been waiting for long years to come to Iran to expand economic and other relations," said Renato Ruggiero.

Behind

The Times Mirror/Gallup study of 8,421 people through July 24 showed Bush 10 points behind in every part of the nation, except the southeast where he trails by three.

Even the West, considered Republican territory, favours Dukakis in that survey which shows people associating themselves with the Democrats since the Iran-Contra scandal.

Mark Goodin, a spokesman for Bush, shrugs off the wide lead in the opinion polls, saying that Bush will take a big jump in the surveys after Republicans formally nominate him by acclamation in New Orleans.

That is seen as the jumping-off point in the campaign by Bush, who not only has been struggling in the opinion polls but has been kept virtually to his vice-president's desk, away from the campaign trail, by a cash shortage.

Since the Democratic convention, Dukakis has been attending to state business three days a week and has hit the road nationwide on extensive tours in an attempt to deliver on his pledge to bring competence to the White House.

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Foreign powers jockey for influence in Lebanese election

By Ghida Slaam

BEIRUT. (Reuter) Presidential hopefuls are rushing to the Syrian capital and roaming embassies to seek support in the forthcoming election in Lebanon.

The United States, Syria, Israel and Iran are the principal foreign powers jockeying for influence in the election, due by Sept 23, political analysts said.

But Syria, the main foreign power-broker in Lebanon, where it has 25,000 troops, has established itself in recent months as the leading force in determining the outcome, they said.

"The 1988 election is Syria's election," a senior government official said. "It will play a predominant and dynamic role whereas Israel will play a role of containment and Washington a conciliatory one," he added.

In the past four months, Damascus has imposed its authority over Beirut's once lawless southern suburbs by deploying troops there to quell inter-Shi'ite fighting.

In July, it backed pro-Syrian Palestinian dissidents in ousting fighters loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat from refugee camps in Beirut.

The consolidation of Syria's power has prompted Lebanese political and religious leaders to flock to Damascus in recent months for consultations over the Lebanese election.

Claws

"The plan has no claws as we military say," Honduran armed forces chief Humberto Regalado said on Friday. "It has no divisive force to ensure compliance." Others fault the plan for not giving a more formal role to guerrilla groups.

Regalado blamed Nicaragua for the failure of the plan. Over the past year, the plan has focused increasingly on Managua's performance.

The other four countries — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras — frequently criticise Managua but rarely each other.

Nicaragua is the only country where there is a prospect for an end to the fighting, but this is largely due to a suspension of US military aid in February.

The Contras are virtually paralysed without aid. A precarious ceasefire has been in place in Nicaragua since March 23, and peace talks between the two sides aimed at ending the war in which at least 40,000 have died collapsed in June.

Nicaragua has grown increasingly impatient with the peace plan, feeling it has made most concessions. Last month it said its tolerance had ended, expelled eight US diplomats and clamped down on the domestic opposition.

Accused

Nicaragua accuses the United States and Honduras of trying to scrap the peace plan.

The Reagan administration has adopted a dual attitude to the peace plan, both supporting it while calling for new military and for the Contras. The US Congress is likely to vote next week on a humanitarian aid package for the rebels.

By John Fullerton

NICOSIA. (Reuter) Jordan's cutting of ties with the Israeli-held West Bank has revived intense debate in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) over setting up a government-in-exile, diplomats and analysts said.

"It's not something new, but it has its attractions, especially now that King Hussein has severed his ties with the occupied territories," said a diplomat.

Vacuum

Last week the king said he was bowing to Palestinian demands for an independent state and cutting ties with the West Bank, seized along with Gaza and the Golan Heights by Israel in 1967.

The move was welcomed in a statement issued on Thursday by local leaders of the eight-month-old uprising in the occupied territories. More than 250 people have died in the protests.

Also on Thursday, Jordan announced it will order the retirement of more than 5,000 of

Italy's foreign trade minister, shortly after he arrived with a 50-man delegation on Wednesday.

Next week Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden will come to Iran, the first such visit in nine years since the Islamic Revolution. Australia has also agreed to join any UN truce observer force if a ceasefire in the Gulf war is implemented.

Partners Both these countries are major trading partners of Iran but the Tehrani-based diplomats said the timing of the trip was significant.

"It's not only the chances of increased trade if the war ends, but also the fact they feel the time is right to come that is interesting," one Western diplomat commented.

Italy is Iran's third largest trading partner after Japan and West Germany. Two-way trade totals \$1.4 billion, mostly in Iranian oil, according to the Iran

Economic Bulletin

Contacts between Britain and Iran have also borne fruit and this week London said it would soon send a diplomat of at least first secretary level to Tehran.

Relations between the two plunged last year after an Iranian diplomat was accused of shoplifting and a British diplomat said he was assaulted. Britain recalled its last remaining diplomat.

But this week Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher acknowledged a personal preference for better relations with Iran, during a Gulf stopover.

The English-language Tehran Times on Monday wrote of speculation that Thatcher would try, during visits to Oman and Bahrain, to have pressure exerted on Iraq to comply with UN ceasefire resolution 598.

"If this is truly the political strategy pursued by Britain, then Iran is indeed grateful to the UK,"

the newspaper said.

Even the "great satan" United States has held low-level contacts with Iran through a third country.

One Iranian official told Reuters that Washington's condemnation this week of Iraq's use of chemical weapons was well received in Tehran.

A neutral Western diplomatic source said the Iranians appeared to have gained diplomatically as Iraq apparently blocked a UN ceasefire by insisting on direct talks, which Tehran deems unacceptable until a truce is in place.

"Iraq seems to have been making it easier for Iran to gain acceptance in diplomatic circles since Tehran is seen as ready for an unconditional truce," one source said.

Castigate

A team from the International Civil Aviation Organisation visited Tehran on Thursday but the opportunity to castigate Washington passed by unused.

The softer line also showed up in a press interview Deputy Oil Minister Hossein Kazempour Ardabili gave on Tuesday. He said Iran was ready to sign an agreement with American oil

companies if US hostility ended.

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And Tehran received a British delegation to discuss hostages pro-Iranian militants are holding in Lebanon.

London-Tehran relations eased in June when the brother of a British businessman jailed on spying charges was told he could visit him.

But Iran's diplomatic drive has achieved little with states on its doorstep.

The seven-member Arab League Committee monitoring the war this week sided with Baghdad's call for direct talks and Iran has done nothing to hide its anger at influential Saudi Arabia.

It was easier for the West to accept Iran than it was for nearer states which felt threatened and regional acceptance of non-Arab Iran would be a long, slow affair, said one observer.

Mistrust

Having accepted the year-old security council resolution, Iran has sent envoys abroad to push for a ceasefire in the face of Iraq's missteps of its intentions.

Iraq accepted the resolution at the outset. Iran announced its agreement after a series of military defeats.

But even before Iran's announcement, its diplomatic activity signalled a change in

**France settling down to cool centrist rule**

By William Echikson

PARIS: France is settling down to cool centrist rule.

After his sweeping re-election in May, President Francois Mitterrand might have been expected to push through major initiatives. But in June, the voters refused to give the President's Socialists or any other party an absolute majority in parliament.

So the President is refraining from any grand promises or ambitious reforms, and instead is stressing down-to-earth schemes for improving schools and public housing.

"Francois Mitterrand's re-election forcefully signalled that a more efficient and more just France now depends on political reconciliation," explained Michel Rocard, the new pragmatic prime minister in his first speech to the National Assembly earlier last month.

"My priorities are not going to be those of one half of France against the other half."

Top-ranking officials at the presidential Elysee Palace see themselves taking part in a worldwide trend away from grand designs and toward pragmatic problem-solving. Except for British leader Margaret Thatcher, West European conservatives such as West Germany's Helmut Kohl lack ideological fervor, and hard conservatism is fading even in the United States, as Ronald Reagan makes way for presidential candidates Michael Dukakis or George Bush. The Mitterrand advisers are not going to be those of one half of France against the other half.

The US cannot afford to totally ignore Lebanon. They have hostages here. Hijackings originate out of here," a Western diplomat said.

Profile

Syria's arch-enemy Israel has adopted a low profile in the elections, in contrast to the powerful role it played after its 1982 invasion of Lebanon, a former cabinet minister said.

Syria and Israel seemed to alternate their involvement in the Lebanese elections. In 1976, Syria chose its presidential candidate, Elias Sarkis. In 1982, it was Israel's turn. Six years later, it is Syria's turn again," he said.

They are among dozens of people regarded as contenders and no front-runner has emerged. Others have trooped around embassies to sound out their chances.

The 76 surviving members of the 99-seat parliament are due to choose a successor to President Amine Gemayel before his term expires on Sept 23.

The Lebanese election is like a lottery. Once (Syrian President Hafez) Assad decides the winner, all members of parliament will endorse the decision," the government official said.

Influence

Syria's role was boosted by a resumption of negotiations this year between Damascus and Washington. The US enjoys wide influence among Lebanon's hardline Christians who are staunch opponents of Damascus.

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The Lebanon election is like a lottery.

By Paul Anderson

HONG KONG (UPI): For the southern Chinese, the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of Aug. 8, 1988 is generating excitement and expectation. It's the day of four eights.

Southerners generally are regarded as the most superstitious of the Chinese people. For them, eight is the luckiest number, and many see today's combination of four eights—the eighth day of the eighth month of 1988—as a harbinger of extraordinary good fortune.

Even sceptics could hardly fail to be impressed that such an auspicious day falls in the year of the dragon. The dragon, supreme among the animals in the Chinese zodiac, is the symbol of good fortune and luck, as well as royalty.

Luck associated with the number eight comes from its pronunciation in Cantonese and other southern Chinese dialects—“baat”—which rhymes with “faat”, the word for fortune or prosperity.

Such a connection may seem at best tenuous. But faith in lucky numbers or symbols is widespread among the southern Chinese, and for them there could be no luckier combination than a string of eights.

Hong Kong textile magnate Law Ting-Pong found the lure

Hong Kong Chinese expect good luck on the day of four eights

Births, marriages, lotteries are all expected to generate good fortune today, 8-8-88, the 'luckiest day of the decade.'

of a single-digit 8 on an auto license plate so strong that he paid more than \$640,000 (\$5 million Hong Kong) for one at a transport department auction in February, earning a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

On a lesser scale, many of Hong Kong's 5.5 million people are devising plans to ensure that 8-8-88 will be their lucky day.

The hopes of most rest with the Hong Kong lottery, known as the Mark Six. It is holding a special draw at 8 p.m. today, adding a bonus of \$3,888,000 Hong Kong (\$498,575) to the regular first prize money, which is determined by the number of tickets purchased.

"For buying the Mark Six," said one civil servant when asked what he was doing for the lucky day. "I don't really

believe in all that, but you never know."

Chinese are famous around the world as gamblers and there is little doubt that the lottery will have a record day today.

Another way of ensuring good fortune is to schedule important events for a lucky calendar.

In the traditional Chinese lun calendar, Monday is the 26th day of the sixth month, which has no special significance.

But many new businesses are scheduling openings Monday, including one that doesn't plan to keep it a secret.

The obstetrician said several patients whose babies were due in early August have inquired about inducing labour so the child can be born Aug. 8.

The Bank of China, whose

massive new headquarters will soar over the Hong Kong skyline, hoped to be far enough along in construction to open some of the lower floors of the I.M. Pei-designed skyscraper Aug. 8.

But lady luck was not with the bank and the People's Republic of China has been forced to abandon the opening—which they now deny was ever planned.

A similar fate befell the colony's new light rail transit system. A rash of accidents during recent test runs forced an undetermined delay in the gala ribbon-cutting scheduled for Monday.

To keep all the hoopla in perspective, it must be noted that today would not be a special day at all if Hong Kong did not follow the Western calendar.

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Jungle animals killed to satisfy rich gourmets

By Janet Midwinter

LION steaks and elephant casseroles have become the “in” thing for affluent gourmets dining out in some of America's trendiest restaurants.

Also prominent on the menu are hippopotamus, giraffe and ostrich.

The fast-growing trade has been condemned by wild life organisations—but suppliers claim the business is entirely legal because the animals are not endangered species.

Demand is so high that some entrepreneurs are breeding jungle livestock at secret farms just for the dinner table, and they will slaughter animals to order.

New York Chef Jeffrey Nathan says his game menu is very popular and his specialities include camel cutlets, sweet and sour ostrich stew, and Sze-

chuan snake.

To put conscience-stricken diners at their ease, he tells them: “We, too, are concerned with the protection of wildlife. We do not feature endangered species.”

Our more exotic meats come from reserves whose express purpose is to raise animals for consumption and entertainment.

Nathan's restaurant, the New Deal, in New York's trendy Soho, gets its supply of exotic animals from specialist farmers in the Midwest—but he prefers not to name them.

He said: “Let's say they raise 12 ostriches and eight are pretty and the rest are not so good looking, then they might sell them as food. It's the same if someone raised 15 lions and they sell 10 to zoos.

They have to do something with the other five.”

Zebra and lions: the “in” thing for affluent diners in America

One of the companies supplying game meats and gourmet delicacies is Polariqa of San Francisco. Company vice-president Mitch Nayesh said some farms domestically raise big game for them, but he will not name his sources and claims they change frequently.

Nayesh said zebras are one of the rarest items. He gets between 25 and 50 lions a year but could sell more.

Founder of the Night Bird supply company of San Bruno,

California, Gerald Prolman, said most of their items, including grouse and salmon, were imported from Scotland.

His company has a 55,000-acre buffalo ranch in Wyoming to provide fresh meat to outlets.

Busy cooks who want to order for home dinner parties can do so by telephone. A few pounds of alligator meat or whole skinned and gutted rattlesnake, can be delivered anywhere in the United States the following morning.

Other tests on the shroud are due to start at Oxford University next week.

Tests at the University of Arizona have been completed.

The three universities were also sent two pieces of ancient linen so that academics would not know which had come from the shroud, which is believed to have covered Christ after the crucifixion and is held at Turin Cathedral.

The Reverend David Sox, an Episcopalian living in London, witnessed tests last week at Zurich University.

Mr Sox said that he was surprised how easily it was to tell the sample from Turin, which several authors have claimed unequivocally to be from the time of Christ.

He said most people were expecting “nothing less than the real.” However, critics

Film gives rise to controversy

Hollywood holy war on Christ film

By Ivor Davis

MARTIN SCORSESE'S film

The Last Temptation of Christ will not be released in the United States until September 23. Only a few people have seen it but already it has stirred up a holy war, with the skirmishes becoming uglier by the day.

So far, the Beverly Hills of Mr Lew Wasserman, chairman of the board of the powerful MCA parent company of Universal Pictures, has publicly deplored the anti-Semitic turn that the protests have taken, and what they called “the all too familiar scapegoating of Jews.” The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles, Mgr Roger Mahoney, who admits that the Church may well find the film “morally offensive,” called Mr Wasserman “a man of the highest integrity.”

Religious critics who say they have seen early versions of the screenplay call it “a blasphemous attack on the Christian Church,” alleging that the film depicts a frightened “wimp” of a Jesus, a deranged individual driven by lust who fantasizes about making love to Mary Magdalene, telling her: “God sleeps between your legs.”

In one sequence, he tells his

fellow: “Here, take my heart,” rips it out of his chest and hands it to them.

Universal Studios is hitting back at the critics, however. In an advertisement, in the form of a letter addressed to Mr Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ, which runs as a full page in the Hollywood trade papers and Los Angeles and New York newspapers, it rejects his

offer to purchase the film, explaining it would “threaten the fundamental freedom of religion and self-expression promised to all Americans under the Constitution.”

Such freedoms, the letter adds, protect us all. They are precious. They are not for sale.

The company also arranged a private screening in New York to which they invited selected religious leaders.

The fundamentalists declined, but some 30 others, including the Episcopal Bishop of New York, the Most Rev. Paul Moore, attended.

He said: “Overall, I had a very, very positive reaction. I saw nothing blasphemous in it.”

If an initial survey of film distributors across the country is any indication, theatres are quite prepared to shun the picture if the controversy continues.

A representative of a chain of theatres in the Midwest affiliated with Universal Studios admitted that even the studio was not putting pressure on its distributors to show the film. “Who wants to fight all of Christianity over one film?” he said.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

TUNE THOSE LITTLE GRAY CELLS

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH

▲ 9 7 2
▼ K 10 5
♦ K 10
♣ Q 9 6 3

WEST EAST

▲ 4
▼ S 6 3
♦ 9 8 6 5 4 2
♣ J 10 5

SOUTH

▲ K Q J 10 8 5 3
▼ A Q J
♦ Void
♣ 7 4 2

The bidding:

East South West North

1 ♠ 4 ♠ 5 ♦ 5 ♠

Dbl Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠

nity of watching some spectacular declarer play.

Declarer covered the nine of diamonds with the king and ruffed away East's ace. The king of trumps lost to the ace, and declarer ruffed the diamond return. The last trump was drawn, and that left only the club suit to handle.

The normal way to play this particular club combination would be to hope that West holds the ace and to lead twice toward the king-queen. However, declarer had good reason to suppose that the ace was with East. Not only had that worthy opened the bidding, but he also had doubled five spades, an action he was unlikely to have taken with only two aces and no king. If the ace of clubs was backed by either the ten or the jack, there was no way the contract could succeed—two tricks in the suit would have to be lost. The only hope was to bid both the jack and ten with West.

Suiting the word to the deed, declarer led a club and, when West followed low, inserted the table's nine. When that fetched the ace, declarer claimed the balance. Note that, had West split his honors, declarer would have made the contract by returning to hand and repeating the finesse.

Since his king of diamonds was unlikely to be of any value offensively, it would have been wiser for North to double five diamonds rather than bid on. But then we would have been deprived of the opportunity.

ACROSS
1 Young one
4 Muslim woman of high rank
9 Fast-talking town
13 Iowa college town
15 Valuable violin
16 California rockfish
17 Memorable actor — Lahr
18 Fishing spots
20 Open, in a way
22 Artificial coloring
23 New South Wales capital River to the Rhein
25 Loc. of 24 Across
26 Confiders
29 Bishop's call
32 Lear and Hamlet
33 Natives of Panay
34 Split Revealed
36 Peter or Paul
37 North Pole worker
38 Naval pens
39 Carols
40 Trim Cleaning tool
43 Standing Scorchers
47 South Carolina river
48 Explanations
51 Retraete
53 High time of day
54 Concept
55 University of Maine site
56 Wild plum
57 Biting Holiday events
59 Copy

DOWN
1 Forbidden Sunday closings?
3 Bowler 4 Sideshow employee
5 Poet Dickinson 6 Donated
7 Shoshonean 8 Reflected 9 Highway equipment
10 Aid program of World War II
11 Black 12 Second or third 14 Coed 19 Defeats
21 11th can. English king: Var.
24 Trumpeter Davis 26 Smithy 27 And others:
Lat. abbr.
28 Letter opener 29 Choreographer Ashton, to friends
30 Vex 31 Alof 32 Singer John 35 Southwest laborers
36 Big shots 38 Boxer or pug 39 See 1 Down 41 This — (choice)
42 Tiny moths 44 Play part 45 — Gay:
46 Lean 47 "M*A*S*H" star 48 Opera favorite 49 MP's problem
50 Snick-or— 52 Southern Constellation

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ROB'S MAC STUNG
IGLU HALO CANOE
ARAP ORANGE BOWL
TEC LAX TONS
ASKFOR RIVE YIP
WRAY EINF DEELA
IDIOT SPUR ELIS
REDWHITE AND BLUE
ICON SEAL ATOMS
SOWS ART STOW
HRS RBJS CURSES
HEEL SAM TRA
GREENLIGHT TOOT
REGAT ZOOS ANDY
SCOUTS ETE JEFER



"If you're that tired, why didn't you stay at home?"

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will be able to do something practical and positive. You are liable to lose interest in something that is still not finished, so beware. Leave yourself with enough time for your personal life. Be sensible.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will have to watch out for someone who is trying to pull the wool over your eyes. You should not allow things to fall behind. Nor should you just hope for the best. Be loyal.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will be better able to face the facts. You should not place too much faith in your intuitions just now. Watch out for mistakes your own too. Be sincere.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

Something you have been doing will show better results than you had hoped for. Others will be better disposed towards you. You will have to watch where you are going



Never mind what the maps say, New Orleans is not in any real sense American. Climatically, temperamentally, . . . its deepest bond is with the Caribbean.

By Nik Cohn

LOUISIANA, A DREAM STATE: the bumper-sticker says it all. New Orleans is less a place than a narcotics and, like any other opiate, its stock-in-trade is illusions.

Prime among these is what locals call GOES, as in Garden Of Eden Syndrome. For upwards of a century, generations of tourist-trappers have been refining the myth of the City That Care Forgot, in which New Orleans is reduced to a glorified theme park, a series of stock-happy-snaps — Mardi Gras, the French Quarter, Bourbon Street strippers flaunting topless on lacework balconies, jazz bands parading behind streetcars, steamboats adrift upon the muddy Mississippi. Paste all the clichés together and you have the complete, Big Easy, a moveable cajoloint that flees some \$2.2 billion from rubberneckers yearly.

For the natives, however, the picture is quite otherwise. Few ever venture within the Quarter except to work there. In truth, very few can afford to. Conventioners may go swelling through a gumbo of conspicuous spending and more conspicuous debauch, but the daily mass reality — especially among the black 57 per cent — is want. Statistically, this is among the very poorest cities in America, perennially leader in the unemployment stakes, likewise in crime and disease, with some of the most noisome slums west of Naples. Desire, these days, denotes no streetcar but a "project", the unspeakable Bricks, in which 8,575 souls, 8,564 of them black, lie at rot.

And yet, for all the hitters, the magic endures, inviolate. My friend Willie Pastrano, once light-heavyweight champion of Planet Earth, now a retired villain and all-purpose bar stool sage, has christened it Le Mal Doux, this sweet sickness; and nobody seems to linger long without succumbing. In my own case, there was not even a struggle. It is now 16 years since I first passed through, on what I fondly believed was a one-night stand. Addiction was instant and absolute, and I've never tried to kick it. For this is my natural homeplace: the weather suits my clothes.

What makes the sickness so sweet? The main symptom is languor, ease, driftage; an animal content. Like a fat cat at purr, one simply surrenders to the steam-heat and the humidity, the scented bayou somnolence, the music, the bottomless oceans, the food — sweet suffering mother of us all, that food!

There is also the physical beauty. Away from the Quarter, which is doubtless picturesque but also a zoo, one moves everywhere through a southern dreamscape, indecent in its loveliness: backstreets riotous with azaleas and oleander, magnolia, tea-olive, jasmine; giganian live-oaks hung with greybeard Spanish moss; clapboard Creole cottages, called shotgunns and cabinbacks, of every known and unknown tint; elevated Golgothas, the Cities of the Dead; colonnaded Grecian mansions, tinsack backwaters; and always, somewhere in hock, the great slow-rolling river, Father of Waters: "One tough act to follow," as Willie Pastrano says, "And that's not whistling Dixie."

Indolence comes courtesy of the climate. New Orleans, built on marshland, sits some feet below sea-level and that's exactly how it feels living underwater, enwombed in soup. Drowning in the swamp smells, one doesn't breathe air so much as concentrated Essence of Miasma.

Still, it's on the streets, not in any clubs or confinements, that New Orleans pleasuring attains its apotheosis. Nowhere else that I know of, not even Rio de Janeiro, carries hedonism so deep in its blood and bone. If you have it, flaunt it, is only half the message. And if you don't, flaunt it harder, is the rest.

It is, above all, a city of transformations, of self-inventions. In a reality so raw and impoverished masquerades are a needed release: "Lies, the best revenge," as Willie Pastrano says.

Any degree of meanness may be eluded, at least temporarily, by donning the right disguise. Small wonder then that Proteus, lord of chameleons, was among the first of Mardi Gras godheads, or that the Quarter has become transvestite Shangri-La.

The jamborees and parades are numberless. Most of them

pretence. Its masques were turned loose to act out whatever fantasies, assume whatever identities they might most deeply crave, to purge them for Lenten austerities. But somewhere the point went astray. Increasingly gobbledegook by commercial greed, carnival has been reduced to an exercise in gross-out. Now every year more than 100,000 aliens descend in a plague-host and, while residents flee for their lives, the central city is abandoned than any triumph. Masters of Disaster, the slogan scrawled on project walls proclaimed. And it was true, when it came to snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, no trade did it better.

Where history fails to explicate, simple geography may do instead. Never mind what the maps say, New Orleans is not in any real sense American. Climatically, temperamentally, also morally, its deepest bond is with the Caribbean.

Perhaps that is why its three abiding passions have been for politics, gambling and ingestion.

Ideally, all three are combined. Thus the very finest of Crescent City rituals is the idle contemplation of the day's racing form and even idler debate of the season's civic election while propped up in some streetcorner Po' Boy bar, downing first a dozen of two of plump and sin-sweet oysters, then perhaps a pound of spiceshell crawfish and another of fatback buster crabs, the whole sluiced down with icy longnecks of Dixie beer.

Cabbage Alley Paradise! Admitted, politics may only be politics for turpitude, gambling for loss, ingestion for massed piggery. But who's counting? In New Orleans, precious few know how.

This is the natural fact: just so long as a body can earn a discreet \$100 for voting right in the morroing, lose back \$50 at the Fair Grounds racetrack in the afternoon and still have enough, on the \$10 remaining, to treat itself right on File Gumbo and Shrimp Etoufee, Pickled Pigs, Dirty Rice and Mud Pie come nightfall, Louisiana will continue to be a banana republic and proud of it. And all of its votaries, myself most devoutly included, will pray that snared by this sweet sickness, none of us ever get well.

Its reaction was characteristic. Instead of bitterness, the vengeful hooligan that a north-

ern town, more driven, less deeply Catholic, might have pursued, the Louisiana defence was simply to shrug. Irony, self-mockery were more its style than woe; where loss could not be overcome, it had better be embraced. What lesson was learned? "Success comes and goes, only failure is forever," says Willie Pastrano, who should know. St. Monius, God of Mirth, became the city's patron saint, also its pet love-child, more fondly to be cherished than any triumph. Masters of Disaster, the slogan scrawled on project walls proclaimed. And it was true, when it came to snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, no trade did it better.

Choose a window seat and there's no room for legs. Choose an aisle seat and there's no breeze. Sit on the right and you have the three-person seats which always seat four. Sit on the left and you'll be over the noxious exhaust smoke. There are no good seats on an Indian bus.

Although the bus averaged under 20 mph it contrived to give the impression that it was hurtling along. We wove through the carts, cyclists and pedestrians that clutter even the most rural stretches of India's highways.

Figures published in the Indian press state that although India has only 1 per cent of the world's motor vehicles, it is responsible for 6 per cent of the world's motor fatalities. This is easy to believe.

Risky

Apart from the volume of potential obstacles on the roads, many roads have been hacked through the kind of harsh, mountainous terrain that makes any journey a risky business. The road to the former British hill-station of Dalhousie was a good example.

After three hours, the bus pulled into Pathankot, which marks the transitional point between the plains and the Himalaya foothills: a typical Indian town, with a typical bus depot, bumbling with activity.

In the heat, I sat and waited for the onslaught that would come when it was realised that a

bus had arrived. Soon a crowd materialised outside my window, and began yelling for my attention. No, I didn't want a room, a "cole ding", a fan, a Hindi comic, my luggage put on the roof, my fortune read, etc.

At the front of the bus the first of the beggars had started their appeal. He was a young man who handed out a card of autobiographical details printed in Hindi, Urdu and English.

The death of his parents had

left him with three lame broth-

From Jammu to Dalhousie by bus

Bumpy passage through India

By Michael Tuft

I DECIDED to go to India when the daily routine of the number 44 bus journey from Wandsworth to Holborn became too much. I reasoned that there must be better ways of spending my time than on a crowded bus crawling through a dirty, noisy city.

The overpowering image of Indian travel is, of course, the train. Yet many regions, especially in the mountains of the north, are accessible only by the infinitely less romantic bus. During the course of a three-month trip, I covered many hundreds of miles in the jolopies of the Indian State Bus Services.

This is an account of one typical trip: from Jammu to Dalhousie, a distance of just over 100 kilometres, which is scheduled to take eight hours and cost £1.25.

Having padlocked my rucksack to the roof, I boarded and indulged in the arcane craft of choosing a seat. (This applies only if you join a bus at the start of its route. Otherwise it's standing room only, and not much of that). Choose a seat at the front and you'll be deafened by the engine and incessant blasts on the horn. Choose a rear seat and you'll be bumped around like a dried pea.

Nioxous

Choose a window seat and there's no room for legs. Choose an aisle seat and there's no breeze. Sit on the right and you have the three-person seats which always seat four. Sit on the left and you'll be over the noxious exhaust smoke. There are no good seats on an Indian bus.

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Passengers prepare for a trip. Many regions especially in the mountainous north are accessible only by bus.

forward, resting his head between my shoulder blades.

The man to my right had his head tucked to my shoulder. A soldier in front had slung his hand over the back of his seat and it was resting on my knee. It was as one huge, sweaty blob that we made our way to Dalhousie, the temperature inside the vehicle never less than intolerable. I thought that there must be better ways of spending my time than sitting on an over-crowded bus as it made its way through a dirty, noisy town.

We were making good time when the tire punctured. This

Having padlocked my rucksack to the roof I boarded and indulged in the arcane craft of choosing a seat ... choose a window seat and there's no room for legs.

Choose an aisle seat and there's no breeze.

Sit on the right and you have the three-person seats which always seat four.

Sit on the left and you'll be over the noxious exhaust smoke!

ers and two young sisters to look after. His pleas were totally ignored by the other passengers, who chatted among themselves. He collected his cards and moved on.

Next up was an old lady who sang Hindi songs and carried a portable shrine on a tray. She crept up the aisle dabbing red paint on foreheads. Once a person was blessed, they were obliged to make a small donation. Next came a blind man, led by a young boy. Finally came one of the ascetic tramps known as "Sadhus", badly deformed and silent, his body being eloquent enough. To his appeal, the passengers were sympathetic.

After half an hour we were off again. The bus was packed to capacity and beyond. A Nepali in the seat behind leaned

was the third puncture I had encountered, and coincidentally each one happened within a few hundred yards of a repair shop. I suspect that a few sharp stones were laid out by the equally sharp proprietors of these garages.

After about six hours of travel I could enter a sort of trance brought on by the constant noise and the dull ache in my backside, and it was in this state of mental inertia that I entered Dalhousie.

Few things can compare with the relief one feels at the end of an Indian bus trip. I could stretch my legs, change my sweat-soaked shirt, have a "cole ding" and breathe. And the passengers were laid out by the equally sharp proprietors of these garages.

After half an hour we were off again. The bus was packed to capacity and beyond. A Nepali in the seat behind leaned

By Rosemary Burton

ACCORDING to the First Law of Package Tourism, half the unwashed youth of Europe and America may be observed for more than half the year loafing in the Piazza San Marco in Venice. The cosmopolitan mixture is further complicated by the addition of elegant and earthen French parties and hapless Japanese, whose tour operations subject them to the ruthless indignity of the group gondola ride.

In an attempt to "help keep Venice clean" the youth have recently been informed, by means of multilingual notices attached to litter-bins, that the eating of packed lunches in and around St. Mark's Square is not allowed, on a penalty of a £25 fine (a hefty coperto, even by Venetian standards).

But, poor things, where they to eat their packed lunches? Every day tripper — and, sadly, many who stay longer — believes that St. Mark's Square is Venice; that is all they know or think they need to know.

John Julius Norwich has evidence that 80 per cent of day trippers never put so much as a foot beyond the confines of the Piazza, so the news that the authorities have grown weary of sweeping old sandwich wrappers and Coke cans from the floor of the finest drawing room in Europe will leave them hungry and confused.

Upsetting

Venice's Piazza is magnificent, but it can also be a strangely upsetting place; huge backpacks and luminous anoraks do little to enhance its splendour. Even Jan Morris, author of a definitive book about Venice which is on all the best reading lists, recently claimed to have fled the city wondering whether she would ever want to return to the monasteries she had helped to create, so hideous was the swarm of tourists

is.

It is a mistake to be depressed by the crowds. There is a time to view the Piazza (early morning, after dark or, as I discovered, a brilliant Saturday afternoon in January when St. Mark's Basilica itself was host to all of five people) and a time to leave it alone; but even at the height of summer when the major sights of Venice are swarming, a walk of 100 yards or less from the Piazza or the Rialto can bring you to scenes of utter solitude.

Venetian Domestic Architecture by Egle Renata Trincanto (less than £5, published by Canal Books) at good bookshops, e.g. Calle Larga 22 Marzo, San Marco 2087 (near San Moise). It describes, with effective line drawings and plans, 90 buildings in the Castello and Dorsoduro districts. Because much of Venice's minor architecture would be of major interest elsewhere, anyone with the least enthusiasm for buildings and townscape will find much to enjoy.

A third useful item is the Carta Venezia, a card which entitles the holder to reduced price tickets on the vaparetto. For example, the current standard fare is 1,500 lire, about 75p, but the price with the carta is 500 lire. The card costs 10,000 lire and is valid for three years, but can easily pay for itself even in one visit. The fee and three passport photographs must be taken to the ACTV office at Piazzale Roma where the carta will be issued over the counter.

A first visit to Venice may be better planned out of season. The tourist board is keen to promote Venezia Inverno as più preciosa, più conveniente — that does not include the February carnival week when the place can grind to a complete halt — but at Easter and in the summer there are always empty churches and deserted campi to escape to.



diplomatic



THOUSANDS of people crowded the Edo River, in Tokyo, to enjoy a sunny Sunday. More than five hundred row-boats occupied the river. (Reuter wirephoto)



FORMER White House aide Oliver North (right) talks with guests at a fund-raiser for Congressman Dan Burton (left). North, a key figure in the Iran-Contra scandal, will go on trial after November's American presidential election. (Reuter wirephoto)



US SECRETARY of State George Shultz puts a ball during a game in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. Shultz is on an official visit to Brazil. (Reuter wirephoto)



SYED HUSSAIN (right), the representative of a north Afghanistan guerrilla council, announced at a news conference in Islamabad yesterday a council proposal for the creation of an army to capture cities from the Soviet-backed Afghan government. To his left is another council member Syed Ahmad Haqbeen. (Reuter wirephoto)



POLICE load into a van one of the anti-abortion protesters arrested in Atlanta outside the Midtown Hospital, an abortion clinic. (Reuter wirephoto)



RICHARD MURPHY, US Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, (left), met yesterday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in occupied Jerusalem. (Reuter wirephoto)



OSCAR MPETHA (right) believed to be South Africa's oldest political prisoner, marked his 79th birthday under police guard in Cape Town's Groote Schuur Hospital. His children, grandchildren and over a hundred friends celebrated Mpetha's birthday at a gathering (left) in Cape Town's black township of Nyanga. (Reuter wirephoto)



FAMOUS Saudi businessman Adnan Khashoggi arrives at the Red Cross ball in Monte Carlo accompanied by his wife (left) and daughter Nabila. (Reuter wirephoto)



BERTA BENZ, wife of the German Inventor Carl Benz, one hundred years ago drove the first car in the world, the Benz-Motorcar, 106 kms from Mannheim to Pforzheim. In commemoration, 165 old-timers and the first car, the Benz-Motorcar, with three actors in costumes of the time, drove along the same route on Saturday again. (Reuter wirephoto)

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Fed likely to raise interest rates to contain inflationary pressures

Dollar firm on signs economy still growing strongly

LONDON, Aug 7. (Reuters): Boosted by data showing the US economy is still growing strongly, the dollar starts this week at its highest for almost a year against the West German mark.

Dealers, wary of more central bank's market intervention to steady the dollar's climb, bought the currency on Friday after US employment figures showed a record rise in new non-farm jobs in July even though the overall jobless rate edged up.

Higher

The dollar was helped by that news and by speculation that the Federal Reserve, the US central bank, might have to raise domestic interest rates to contain inflationary pressures.

But Wall Street weakened in

thin trading on concern that higher rates would push up the cost of borrowing to industry.

"One of the major constraints to the Fed not acting already to tighten credit is that the dollar was so very, very strong and any tightening would only push it higher," said economist Joe Liro of S.G. Warburg and Co. in New York. "They have a dilemma on their hands."

Dealer

The dollar closed in New York on Friday at 1.8945 marks compared with 1.8920 in London and 1.8798 in New York on Thursday. It was last this high in mid-August 1987.

"The near-term news is definitely bullish for the dollar," said Doug Madison, a corporate trader for Bank of America.

In London, before trading finished in New York on Friday, a dealer for a US bank branch said: "The dollar just doesn't seem to want to go down. If it doesn't go through 1.90 marks tonight (in New York), people are going to come in Monday wanting to buy it."

Some US economists argue that a rising dollar may retard exports and slow the economy. "That may reduce some pressure from inflation, but it may compound one of the nation's most serious problems — the trade deficit," one said on Friday.

Traders recalled that, a year ago when the dollar was at similar levels, news of a large

\$15.6 billion trade deficit for June, 1987, helped speed its decline. The next US monthly trade figures, again for June, are due out on August 16.

Move

Meanwhile, dealers said US financial markets on Friday took calmly the news that Treasury Secretary James Baker was stepping down to run Vice-President George Bush's presidential campaign. The move had been rumoured for some time.

Nicholas Brady, chairman of investment bankers Dillon Read and Co., was nominated to succeed Baker. Brady headed a White House panel that studied last October's stock market crash.

On Friday, the dollar also strengthened against the Japanese yen and the pound sterling, but it has been higher against both in the past month. It ended in New York at 133.88 yen from 133.03 on Thursday and at \$1.6895 to a pound from 1.7068.

Pressure

Gold, which dealers said was under pressure from the firm dollar and producer selling, closed in Hong Kong on Saturday at \$432.10 an ounce, slightly down from Friday's finish of \$432.15 in New York and \$432.50 in London.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 7.47 points on Friday at 2,119.13 — a fall of 9.6 on the week. Volume

was thin — it was the second slowest trading day of the year.

"There was basically lacklustre sideways action where today, nothing went on," said William King, a trader for the US branch of Nikko Securities. Most traders foresaw little action in the coming week with many brokerage staff on summer holidays.

In London, the FTSE index of 100 leading shares closed on Friday 6.2 points up at 1,875.9 — a rise of 22.3 on the week.

The world's biggest share market, in Tokyo, eased back in half-day trading on Saturday as a result of profit-taking, dealers said. The Nikkei average fell 61.20 points to 28,362.18 after setting an all-time record of 28,423.38 on Friday.

OECD oil consumption on the rise

PARIS, Aug 7. (KUNAI): Oil consumption in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries rose by an estimated two per cent in the second quarter of this year to 35.1 million barrels per day (BPD) compared with 34.4 million BPD in the same period in 1987, according to preliminary data released by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

For 1988 as a whole, the Paris-based IEA is forecasting consumption to increase to an average of 36.4 million BPD, that is 0.5 million BPD more than in the previous year, provided the OECD countries experience a growth rate of 3 per cent.

Oil supply to the world, communist countries not included, is estimated to have risen to 49.8 million BPD in July, 0.8 million BPD more than in June, mainly due to a 0.3 million BPD increase from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and an assumed higher seasonal imports from the communist bloc of 0.4 million BPD, the IEA said.

OPEC's crude oil output in July averaged 18.8 million BPD, compared with 18.5 million BPD in June, with Iran and the UAE accounting for the 0.3 million BPD increase. All the other OPEC members maintained the June level production.

Exploration

OECD output stood at 16.5 million BPD, that is 0.1 million BPD more than in June, with the explosion on the Piper Alpha platform in the North Sea preventing the expected rise in the July production.

The Piper Alpha tragedy is expected to lower Britain's production by 0.2 million BPD in the last half of this year, IEA said.

Developing countries production in July rose by 0.1 million BPD to an average of 9.4 million BPD, while Communist countries net exports to the OECD in July is estimated at 2.4 million BPD, a 0.4 million BPD increase from the June level.

Subroto to visit Kuwait

OPEC secretary-general Dr Subroto is scheduled to pay a visit to Kuwait in the coming few weeks, a local newspaper has reported.

The daily said that Subroto's visit appears to be called for by the OPEC committee on prices which met in Lausanne, Switzerland early this month. Subroto has visited the UAE and met with Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan who briefed him about UAE's production quota last week.

The five-man committee will hold a meeting in September to discuss results of Subroto's tour to some OPEC states and developments on oil markets, the daily said in a dispatch from Lausanne.

In a departure statement, Venezuelan oil minister told the journalists that this was his last meeting because he wants to resign as minister and run in the party elections which will be held in Venezuela shortly.

New airline services link

DUBAI, Aug 7. (Reuters): Emirates Airline said today it would start a twice-weekly service to Damascus.

A spokesman for Dubai's government-owned carrier told Reuters the Syrian capital would be the 12th destination to be served by Emirates, which began operating in 1985.

The inaugural Boeing 727 flight would leave later today.

Royal Brunei Airlines will begin a twice-weekly service to Dubai on Monday.

Earnings from equity offerings decline

Deutsche Bank profit climbs on stock gains

FRANKFURT, Aug 7. Deutsche Bank AG said its first-half operating profit climbed 35 per cent compared with one-half of its 1987 operating profit because of rising interest earnings and improved earnings from stock trading, according to the Wall Street Journal.

West Germany's largest commercial bank didn't disclose precise figures, but analysts said the results were slightly higher than expected and better than earnings reported by the bank's leading domestic rivals, Dresdner Bank AG and Commerzbank AG.

Deutsche Bank shares advanced 1.80 Deutsche marks (96 cents) yesterday on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange to finish at DM485 (\$258.70).

The bank's first-half partial operating profit, which excludes profit from trading in its own account, edged up slightly to DM881.8 million from DM876.1 million, which is half of 1987's partial operating profit adjusted for a change in accounting rules, the bank said in an interim report.

Deutsche Bank said the accounting change is bloating its partial profit figures. Following

the example of other West German banks, the Deutsche Bank is including profit from price bonuses that it receives from bond placements in its commission earnings, which is part of the partial profit figures.

In the past, bonuses have been treated as trading profit, which is excluded from partial profits.

Because of this change, first-half partial profit can't be compared with figures for the year earlier period, when the result stood at DM666.1 million.

For the group, total operating profit rose 24 per cent, but partial profit was 2 per cent lower compared with one-half of the 1987 result, Deutsche Bank said. Again, it didn't disclose precise figures.

Increase

The first-half increase comes after a steep drop in 1987 earnings, when shrinking interest margins and heavy losses during the October stock market crash pushed Deutsche Bank's operating profit down 34 per cent.

In the first six months, net interest earnings climbed 6.5 per cent to DM2.33 billion from DM2.18 billion, half the 1987 amount, while free earnings rose

1.8 per cent to DM898.2 billion from DM 882.5 billion. Spending on personnel and equipment, meanwhile, increased 6.9 per cent to DM 2.34 billion from DM2.19 billion. All figures are adjusted for the new accounting practice.

While earnings from equity offerings declined because of a dearth of new issues in the first half, the drop was more than offset by higher earnings from bond placements and investment banking, the bank said.

Trading profit rose steeply because of the strong recovery on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange and other major stock markets since the beginning of the year, Deutsche Bank said. Earnings from currency and precious metals trading were little changed from a year earlier, the bank added.

The bank said it is optimistic for the second half, but didn't give a profit forecast.

"These are very good results," said Stephen Lewis, an analyst at Salomon Brothers Inc. in London. "There was a bounce back from currency and precious metals trading were little changed from a year earlier, the bank added.

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Higher interest rates not inevitable: Baker

WASHINGTON, Aug 7. (Reuter): Departing Treasury Secretary James Baker praised the Federal Reserve Board's monetary policy and said he does not think the central bank has signalled that higher interest rates are inevitable.

Interviewed on television, Baker was asked if the Fed will be forced to raise rates in this election year. He said lower interest rates were desirable but not at the expense of higher inflation.

"In saying that I am not acknowledging that that is what the Fed has said they will do because I don't think they have," Baker, who has announced his resignation effective August 17 to lead Vice-President George Bush's campaign for president, praised the job the Fed has done with the economy.

"I think the Fed has done an extraordinarily good job of maintaining a balance between preserving growth on the one

hand and being vigilant against inflation on the other," Baker said.

He defended Bush's pledge that if elected he will not raise taxes for four years despite huge federal budget deficits.

"I think it is a responsible position to take based on what I know after seven and a half years in government and what happens when revenues are raised. They don't go to deficit reduction," Baker said.

He said Bush's plan not to raise taxes would be combined with a selective freeze on government spending that will permit such Bush proposals as child care assistance and restoring tax breaks on capital gains.

Baker added that those programmes did not represent an "exorbitant sum of money."

Baker explained that under Bush's proposal of a so-called flexible freeze spending limitations would not be across the

board but would be done with discretion.

He said the federal budget deficit has been declining more rapidly than was anticipated because of limits on spending increases already in place.

Baker's long-awaited departure to join the Bush campaign was announced on Friday by President Reagan who praised Baker and said he will nominate Wall Street executive Nicholas Brady as Treasury Secretary.

Economy will grow at least 2.5pc this year

W. German capital outflow hits record \$29.6b

FRANKFURT, Aug 7: Capital has been flowing out of West Germany investments at an unprecedented rate, helping to explain why the Bundesbank has been raising interest rates to prop up the Deutsche mark, reports Wall Street Journal.

The West German central bank Thursday said the nation's balance of payments showed a record net capital outflow of \$55.5 billion Deutsche marks (\$29.6 billion) in the first half, more than triple the year-earlier's DM16.9 billion. The reason: A broad swing in long-term capital transfers to a net outflow this year from a net inflow a year ago.

Investors

Economists say investors are leaving Deutsche mark instruments in pursuit of higher interest rates abroad, particularly in the US and UK. The Bonn government's plan to impose a 10 percent withholding tax on West German domestic bonds prompted many West German and foreign investors to put their money in foreign fixed-income securities.

The widening deficit in the capital account underscores policy makers' fears that an exodus of capital from West German investments is weakening the Deutsche mark and raising potential for imported inflation

as foreign goods become more expensive.

We're not worried about the growing capital deficit because we're losing capital as such, but because of the effect it's having on our currency in foreign-exchange markets," a Bundesbank official said. In addition to fears of imported inflation, he said the central bank believes a weakening currency impedes West Germany's pledge to help reduce world trade imbalances by bringing down its huge trade surplus.

The pace of capital flight accelerated in June, with net outflow surging 42 per cent to DM13.9 billion from DM9.8 billion in May. And it was in June that the Bundesbank began tightening its monetary policy with a series of interest-rate increases. These included 1/2 percentage point jumps in its discount and Lombard rates as well as a cumulative one-point increase in its one-month securities repurchases agreements.

Outflows

West German officials are particularly troubled by a shift in long-term capital transfers in the first half of 1988 to a net outflow of DM50.6 billion from a net inflow of DM18.7 billion the year before.

The reason is that the reversal reflects not only a flight from West German securities but also an emerging pattern of disinvestment in West German industry.

The Bundesbank's definition of long-term capital covers credits and securities with maturities exceeding one year, as well as direct investments by banks and industry. Direct investments in such fixed assets as real

estate and industrial participations, saw a 38 per cent increase in first-half net outflows to DM8.9 billion from DM6.45 billion a year earlier.

West German economists say an export-oriented economy like West Germany's always will tend to generate capital outflows. But that relationship was far from balanced in the first half, when the DM55.5 billion in net capital outflow dwarfed the amount of funds coming into West Germany from trade and services.

West Germany's current-account surplus for the first six months has yet to be announced, but it is expected to show a surplus of roughly DM37 billion.

"The traditional balance is becoming distorted by a combination of rising US interest rates and speculation that the dollar will continue to rise," said Heine Flossbeck, an economist with the German Institute for Economic Research in West Berlin. "The result will be to force West Germany to rely even more on exports for growth."

Economists also say the Deutsche mark has been hurt by market expectations of a weakening West German economy next year, even though growth has been accelerating so far this year.

Recent economic indicators

tend to support government predictions that the West German economy will grow at least 2.5 percent this year, after expanding only 1.7 per cent in 1987.

For instance, the economics ministry reported Thursday that June order inflow to the manufacturing industry rose by a real, seasonally adjusted 0.9 per cent from May, and by a real or inflation-adjusted, 8.5 per cent from June 1987.

In a two-month comparison which isn't sensitive to short-term fluctuation, May-June order bookings rose 1.5 per cent from the preceding two-month period and were up 11 per cent from a year earlier. The economics ministry said May-June orders from abroad were up 13 per cent on the year, while domestic orders rose 9.6 percent.

And, despite the Bundesbank's inflation fears, the government said West Germany's annual inflation rate still was running at only 1 per cent in July.

Unemployment continues to darken the economic landscape, however. The Federal Labour Office reported July's unemployment rate stood at 8.6 per cent in July, when 2.2 million were reported to be out of work. The July rate was up from 8.4 per cent in June, but eased slightly from 8.7 per cent in July 1987.

KUWAIT

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
-NATIONAL BANK	1.100	1.150	1.140	1.100	4290000	123
-GULF BANK	0.435	0.465	0.465	0.440	3370000	102
-COMMERCIAL BS	0.325	0.350	0.350	0.330	4640000	167
-AHILI BANK	0.410	0.425	0.430	0.410	2180000	86
-B.K.N.E	0.400	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-K.R.E.B.	0.455	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-BURGAN BANK	0.325	0.345	0.350	0.325	4650000	188
-K.F.HOUSE	0.530	0.550	0.560	0.530	2340000	104

INVESTMENT SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
-KWT INV. CO.	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.182	40000	1
-K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-K.I.I.C.	0.172	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-CON. FACILITIES	0.490	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-ARHLIAN INV.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-I.F.A.	0.102	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-INV. PEARL KWT	0.112	0.116	0.116	0.114	2400000	38

INSURANCE SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
-KWT INSURANCE	0.750	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-GULF INSURANCE	0.360	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-AHILA INS. CO.	0.590	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-WARBA INS. CO.	0.460	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

REAL EST. SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
-KWT R.EST. CO.	0.238	0.248	0.248	0.238	560000	9
-UNI R.EST. CO.	0.114	0.120	0.122	0.116	140000	35
-KAT R.EST. CO.	0.216	0.218	0.220	0.210	200000	6
-SALHIAN R.E.	0.080	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-KWT PROJECTS	0.085	0.085	0.086	0.085	200000	3
-KWT R.E.I.CO.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

INDUSTRY SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
-KAT IND. CO.	0.500	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-KUT M.P. IND.	0.350	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-KUT CEMENT CO.	0.255	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-REF. IND. CO.	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.410	50000	2
-H.A.M.T. CO.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-GULF CABLE	1.070	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-K.P.H. IND. CO.	0.226	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-CONT. MARINE	0.350	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-K.SH.REP.CO.	0.046	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

SERVICES SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
-OVERLAND TRANS	0.082	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-K.W.C.C.O.	0.190	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-KWT HOTELS CO.	0.170	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-P.WAREHOUSING	0.178	0.186	0.186	0.180	540000	11
-COM.NCT.CMPX.	0.020	0.020	0.021	0.020	160000	13
-MOBILE TELE.	0.410	0.420	0.420	0.405	80000	30
-KUT COMPUTER	0.186	0.186	0.186	0.186	20000	1
-FOOD SECTOR	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.230	0.234	0.234	0.234	100000	1
-UWTD FISHERIES	0.154	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-UWTD POULTRY	0.234	0.224	0.224	0.224	60000	3
-KWT FOODS	0.310	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-AGRI.FOOD PRD.	0.150	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-HOM-KUT SECTOR	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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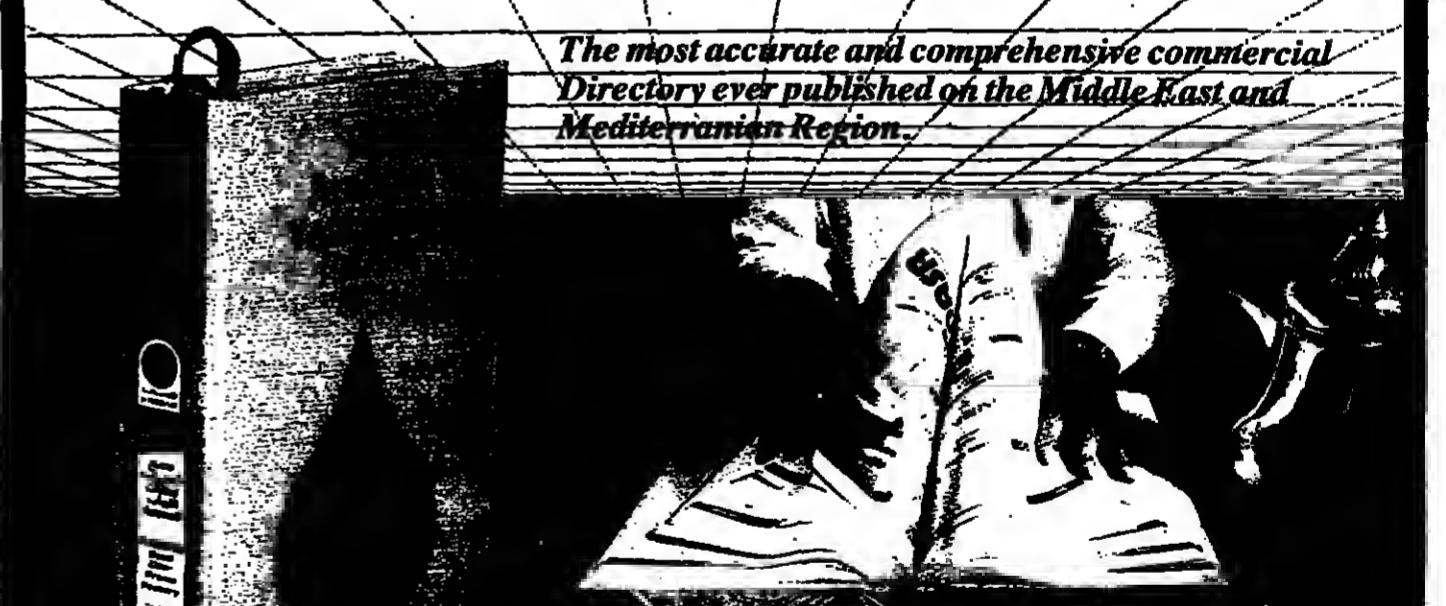
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BASEBALL
ROUNDUP

Mets take six-game lead in NL East

NEW YORK, Aug 7. (AP): Relief ace Jim Gott was hardly a stopper for the Pittsburgh Pirates last night.

Gott's Major League recording three balks in the eighth inning scored two runs and set up a third as the New York Mets opened up a six-game lead in the National League East by beating Pittsburgh 5-3.

All three balks were for failing to come to a stop.

The balks "were obvious, they were very flagrant. And I should know what a balk looks like as many times as our pitchers got called for them in the first 2 1/2 months," said Mets manager Davey Johnson. "They obviously were the big plays."

Pirates manager Jim Leyland was much more skeptical.

"I'm a professional and I'm not going to second guess the umpires' decisions," Leyland said. "But it's frustrating to a manager at times when a pitcher throws four pitches and gets called for a balk on the fifth. That's what I don't understand."

Other National League games saw Montreal nip St. Louis 5-4; Chicago beat Philadelphia 7-4; San Diego beat Cincinnati 4-1; Atlanta beat San Francisco 7-2; and Los Angeles beat Houston 5-3.

A's 5, Mariners 4

Jose Canseco has 40-40 vision.

The Major League home run leader became the 11th player in Major-League history to hit 30 home runs and steal 30 bases in the same year when he got his 30th stolen base yesterday in Oakland's 5-4 victory over the Seattle Mariners. Canseco has 31 homers and is trying to become the first player to hit and steal 40 in the same season.

"It's very realistic, hitting nine homers in the next two months," Canseco said.

"If you see the way he's hit his 30 home runs and stolen his 30 bases, the numbers have meant a lot," Oakland manager Tony La Russa said.

Canseco's steal led to the winning run. Dave Henderson led off the ninth with a single against Mike Jackson, 6-3. Canseco forced Henderson and stole second, went to third on Jackson's wild pickup throw and scored on Mark McGwire's sacrifice fly.

In other American League games, it was Detroit 4, Boston 2, Kansas City 11, Toronto 1, New York 5, Minnesota 3, Cleveland 5, Texas 3, Baltimore 7, Milwaukee 2, and California 7, Chicago 5.

Expos 7, Cardinals 4

Tom Foley hit a two-run triple, and Ottis Nixon added a two-run double as Montreal continued its hex over St. Louis. The Expos are 10-2 against the Cards this season and have won 11 of their last 13 games. They also have won 14 of their last 16 on the road.

Cubs 7, Phillies 4

Al Nipper added five hits in 5 1-3 innings to win for the first time since May 24 and reliever Pat Perry hit his first Major-League home run as Chicago defeated Philadelphia. Rafael Palmeiro extended his hitting streak to 16 games with an RBI single off Mike Maddux, 3-2, in the fifth inning.

Dodgers 4, Reds 1

Dennis Rasmussen allowed six hits in eight-plus innings to beat his former Cincinnati teammates for the third time since being traded June 8. Rasmussen, 10-7, retired the first 10 batters of the game, striking out the side in the second and third innings. The left-hander struck out eight and walked two to win for the eighth time in nine decisions with San Diego.

Brewers 7, Giants 2

Pete Smith allowed five hits in six innings to win for the first time since July 4 and Lonnie Smith singled twice and doubled to lead a 14-hit attack. It was Atlanta's third straight victory, tying its longest winning streak of the season.

Dodgers 5, Astros 3

Tim Belcher and Jay Howell combined on a seven-hitter as Los Angeles Dodgers increased its lead to 3 1/2 games over second-place Houston in the National League West.

Tigers 4, Red Sox 2

Matt Nokes hit a two-run homer and Doyle Alexander allowed seven hits as Detroit beat the Red Sox for the fourth straight time, matching Boston's longest losing streak this season. Detroit leads Boston by four games in the AL East.

Yankees 5, Twins 3

Rickey Henderson hit a tie-breaking sacrifice fly in the seventh inning and stole three bases as New York stopped a four-game losing streak and ended the Minnesota's four-game winning string.

SEGUSO MAKES MCENROE FIGHT FOR VICTORY

Becker struggles past Witsken

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug 7. (UPI): Top-seeded Boris Becker and fifth-seeded John McEnroe claimed difficult victories yesterday to advance to the final of the US Men's Hardcourt Tennis Championships.

Becker, who has not played a seeded for in the tournament, struggled in eliminating local favorite Todd Witsken 6-1, 4-6, 6-4. McEnroe, trying to regain the form that led him to four US Open titles and three Wimbledon crowns, defeated 15th-seeded Robert Seguso 7-5, 6-3.

Emerged

The final at the Indianapolis Sports Centre this evening was to be the first match between Becker and McEnroe since a marathon Davis Cup encounter last year. Becker emerged a 4-6, 15-13, 8-10, 6-2, 6-2, winner in 6 hours and 20 minutes, the second-longest match in Davis Cup history.

"To play McEnroe is always special, no matter what round. It would make a win even sweeter," said Becker, who has won two of their three meetings. "Whenever former No. 1 players meet, it's a tough match."

McEnroe seeks his 72nd singles title, which would match Ivan Lendl for second on the all-



Becker heads for the ground after making a return to Witsken. (Rauer wirephoto)

time list. Jimmy Connors, eliminated by Seguso in the third round, has the most tournament crowns in tennis history with 106. McEnroe's last title came at a Tokyo tournament in April, his only

other hard court appearance this year.

"I'm looking forward to playing him to see how I'm playing and where I stand," McEnroe said. "I feel it's within me to win,

risk any extravagant strokeplay. A sudden splash of Caribbean sunshine, almost the first of a lamentable summer, has accompanied the match so far and the weather is forecast to remain good for the remainder.

The likelihood is that the game will be over soon after lunch on the fourth day with West Indies winning their sixth successive series against England without suffering a single defeat.

England lost their three home series against West Indies before this one 3-0, 1-0 and 5-0 and in their last two visits to the Caribbean have been beaten 2-0 and 5-0.

Defeat here tomorrow will mean that in the last 29 Tests between the two teams, West Indies will have won 20 with the other nine drawn.

Scores: England 205 and 202, West Indies 183 and 71 for no wicket.

But in the context of the limitations of England's batting overall, the pace of Gooch's innings was excusable. He knew that he was the only player capable of a big score and could not

Yielded

Gooch's dashing effort contrasted with Graham Gooch's seven-hour innings for England which yielded 84 runs. For 70 minutes yesterday morning Gooch failed to score a run.

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Egypt sacks coach after Cup defeat

CAIRO, Aug 7, (Reuter): Egypt, reeling under a string of humiliating soccer setbacks, has dismissed its national coach for the second time this year, football federation chairman Ibrahim Al Gowaini said today.

"We have decided to thank captain (Fouad) Sedki for his services up to August 6," Gowaini told Reuters. The decision was taken after a five-hour debate on the future of Egyptian soccer.

Egypt came only third in the fifth Arab Cup tournament in Amman last month following a 4-3 defeat by Syria in a penalty shootout. It was the latest in a series of losses which have caused anguish to local fans over the past 12 months.

Gowaini said the federation was now considering a replacement for Sedki. He did not rule out the possibility of bringing in a foreign coach.

Compared

His victory hoisted him level with Prost in the battle for the drivers' title on 66 points after 10 of the season's 16 races, but the Brazilian leads because he has won six times compared to Prost's four. It was Senna's 12th career win and his fifth success in the last six races.

Senna, starting from pole position, led for virtually the entire race, allowing Prost only a fleeting taste of the lead on the 49th lap when he was overtaken as they lapped Italian Gabriele Tarquini's Coloni at the end of the race.

Prost passed Senna and led for a few seconds but could not hold his line and the Brazilian, hungry for his first world title, retaliated immediately by regaining the lead.

Prost, world champion in 1985

and 1986, and first in the standings throughout this season, said: "I pushed a bit too hard at the wrong time. I was a little bit too quick and it was a very close moment for us both."

Senna said: "I held my breath thinking that we might both end up going off, but I gave him a bit of room as he came by me. I managed to re-pass him immediately but it was a hard race all the way to the finish."

Brazilian Mauricio Gugelmin was fifth in a march ahead of Italian Riccardo Patrese's Williams. But the expected nor-

used to press hard but Senna did not permit him a second opening as he drove out to a narrow and dramatic victory.

Belgian Thierry Boutsen, whose Benetton suffered a broken exhaust pipe 15 laps from the end, led the normally-aspirated cars to finish third and Austrian Gerhard Berger was fourth in a Ferrari.

British Nigel Mansell, who started alongside Senna on the front row, held second place until he spun his Williams on the 12th lap and then suffered from an engine misfire.

He retired at the end of the 60th lap, admitting he was too exhausted to continue after feeling ill through chicken pox for more than a week.

a pit stop, he never fully recovered, but finished eighth.

British Nigel Mansell, who started alongside Senna on the front row, held second place until he spun his Williams on the 12th lap and then suffered from an engine misfire.

Although Mansell is regarded as a baseline player, the blond Swede from Eskilstuna stormed ahead, leading 6-1, 6-1 after the first two sets.

Sanchez had problems with timing, served poorly and made many mistakes at the baseline. But the Spaniard, handicapped by a shoulder injury that acted up again, did not give up.

He mounted a counter-attack with his first break in the opening game of the third set. Thereafter, Sanchez took every possible chance for attack and his aggressive play netted him the next two sets.

Surged

That was apparently all the Spaniard had to give. In the last set, Carlson surged ahead 2-0 and at 2-2 had the first match-ball in his favour.

Sanchez warded off two of them with aces and a third with a service winner to make it 3-3. But Carlson wrapped up the match with his own serve. At 40-15 Sanchez failed in a backhand return, and it was over.

Carlsson overcomes Sanchez

KITZBU EHRL, Austria, Aug 7, (AP): Kent Carlsson of Sweden defeated Emilio Sanchez of Spain for the Austrian Open Men's Tennis Grand Prix title here today.

Carlsson, the No.3 seed, downed the fourth-seeded Sanchez, 6-1, 6-1, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3.

Carlsson was the first Swedish victory in the \$290,000 international Austrian championships.

The 20-year-old Swede took three hours to defeat the defending Spanish champion for his third tournament win this season and \$40,000 in prize money.

Although Carlsson is regarded as a baseline player, the blond Swede from Eskilstuna stormed ahead, leading 6-1, 6-1 after the first two sets.

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Grossman surprises Fairbank

SAN DIEGO, Aug 7, (Reuter): Seventeen-year-old qualifier Ann Grossman continued to surprise and delight fans at the \$100,000 San Diego tennis tournament by reaching the final with an upset of fourth-seeded South African Rosalyn Fairbank yesterday.

Grossman, who earlier in the week upset fifth-seeded fellow American Robin White, was to play in her first final of a professional tournament this evening as a result of an impressive 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 semifinal victory.

Grossman's opponent in the final will be second-seeded American Stephanie Rehe, who posted an easy 6-2, 6-2 victory over another qualifier, compatriot Debbie Graham.

After winning the opening set, Grossman's serve deserted her and she was broken four times in the second. But her second set woes did not carry into the third and the crowd-pleasing teenager raced out to an insurmountable 5-1 lead, coming up with two service breaks in the baseline duels.

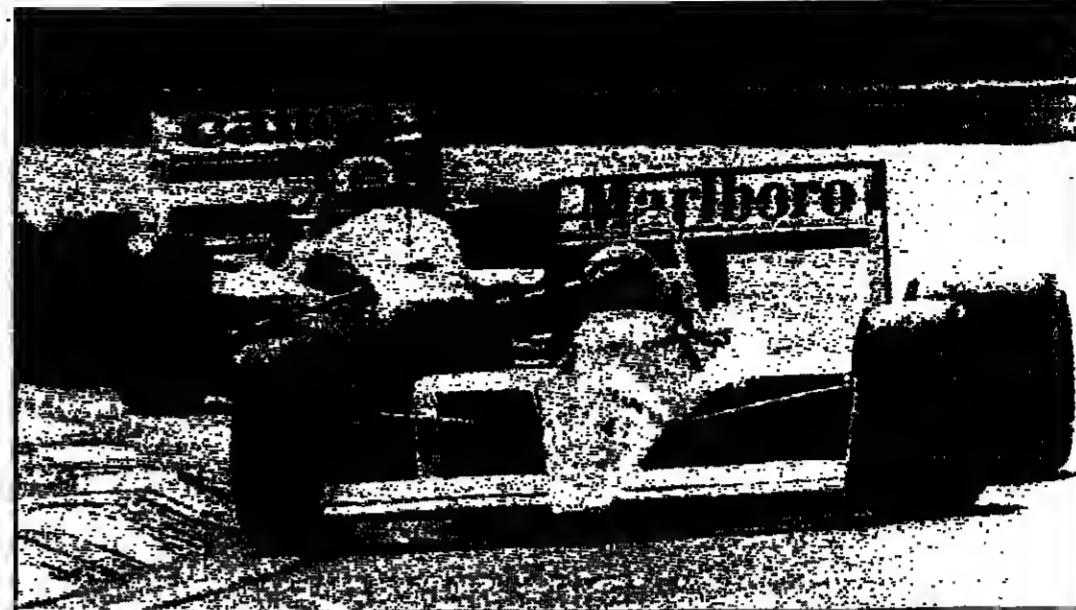
After losing her own serve for 5-2, the confident teenager, ranked 171—124 places lower than Fairbank—broke back for the victory.

BRAZILIAN ACE REPLACES PROST AS CHAMPIONSHIP LEADER

Senna speeds to victory in Hungarian GP



Prost (left) almost disappears behind a champagne shower given by Senna (centre) while Boutsen gets ready to open his bottle. (Reuter wirephoto)



Senna leading Mansell at the start of the race. (Reuter wirephoto)

Coe faces Olympic knock-out

BIRMINGHAM, England, Aug 7, (Reuter): Olympic champion Sebastian Coe appeared to have lost all hope of defending his 1,500 metres title in Seoul next month when he was eliminated in the heats at the British Olympic trials yesterday.

Coe, the only man to win two Olympic 1,500-metre gold medals, struggled to fourth place in his heat and failed to qualify for today's final, shredding his dreams of a third Olympic title.

With the first two in each final earmarked for Seoul, only a major change of heart by the British Amateur Athletics Board could rescue the 31-year-old middle-distance star.

The selectors have the power to award 'discretionary' third spots in the squad, but Coe's claims looked slim after yesterday's dismal showing.

Former world champion Steve Cram, who skipped the 1,500 metre trial, appeared assured of the third slot at that distance and a shot at an Olympic double after

a majestic victory in the 800 metres earlier in the day.

Coe's chance of claiming the third 800 metres place alongside Cram and Tom McLean looked equally remote, with world championship silver medallist Peter Elliott vying for the honour and winning his 1,500 metres heat in convincing style.

Coe, who was unhappy at having to run in the trials at all, could clock only a modest three minutes 45.01 seconds — some 15 seconds outside his best time.

"There was nothing there. Everything has been going well in training, but when I tried to respond at 1100 metres I had nothing to offer," Coe, whose season has been interrupted by injury, said.

There was a touch of irony in his failure when, in the next heat, old rival Steve Ovett produced just the sort of finishing burst Cram lacked.

Ovett has had a miserable season, but this time he was waving and blowing kisses to the crowd in his old style as he won

his heat in 3:43.98.

"I was really pleased with that. It's beginning to come back, although it was still only a heat," Ovett, who beat Coe for the 1980 Olympic 800 metres title in Moscow, said.

Elliott had no sympathy for Coe. "I can't feel sorry for S. C. It's a competitive business and no one would feel sorry for me if I went out. Obviously this gives me a better chance of getting the last 800 metres place," he said.

Four years ago Elliott beat Coe in the national 1,500 metres final, but the selectors still chose Coe, who justified their faith by retaining his Olympic crown in Los Angeles.

Accelerated

In the 800 metres, which Coe and Elliott both missed, Cram accelerated magnificently off the final bend to overhaul leading rival McLean and secure a handsome victory in one minute 44.16 seconds — the third fastest time in the world this year.

In Seoul, Cram will be seeking

to become the first athlete since New Zealander Peter Snell in Tokyo 24 years ago to win both the 800 and 1,500 metres.

"It's a tough programme — seven races in nine days — and you've got to be in great shape to attempt it, but my form at 800 metres is enough to encourage me that I 1,500 will be fast as well," said Cram.

"I have been trying to build up gradually throughout the season, and I always said I would be prepared when it came to the crunch," said Cram. "There are not many people who have run this fast this season, and there's certainly nobody beat or shouldered above anyone else. The way things are at the moment, I can cope with the heavy programme of doing the double."

The last time Cram attempted a similar feat was at the 1986 European Championships in Stuttgart where he won 800 metres bronze and 1,500 metres gold. A few weeks earlier he won both golds in Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh.

Superpower takes Phoenix Stakes

DUBLIN, Aug 7, (Reuter): Walter Swinhurst's disappointment when intended mount Dancing Dissident went lame and was withdrawn turned to joy as he partnered Bill O'Gorman's Superpower to victory in the Phoenix Stakes today.

Bouncing out of the stalls and soon a couple of lengths clear, the 6-1 chance kept up a relentless gallop on the rails to give Swinhurst a dream success on his first ride Ireland's richest juvenile contest, a group one race for two-year-olds.

Swinhurst gained the chance of the ride when jockey Tony Ives was injured.

LAHORE, Pakistan, Aug 7, (Reuter): A penalty six minutes from time helped India draw 1-1 with Pakistan in the fourth hockey Test today.

Olympic champions Pakistan, trailing the six-match series 2-1, took a first half lead when Qazi Mohib converted a penalty stroke in the 32nd minute. It was awarded because Ashok Kumar had pulled down Mohib's goal-bound shot from above his head.

But Surjit Kumar levelled with his spot shot after M.P. Singh had caught Mohib's foot on the goal-line with a stinging shot.

Feroze initiated a neat move in the ninth minute and gave a good pass to Tariq Sheikh but Indian goalkeepers Mark Patterson

brought off a good save.

Playing on slow and heavy National Stadium artificial turf, India settled down quickly and forced a penalty corner in the 14th minute. But right-back Ashok Kumar shot wide.

India's right wing Gundeep Kumar received a nasty cut on his forehead after he was struck by left-half Naeem Akhtar.

Changes

Pakistan were without their regular inside-left Zahid Sharif and played Feroze on the left flank.

India made three changes, replacing goalkeeper Rajinder Singh Rawat, skipper and right-half M.M. Somaya and centre-forward Balwinder Singh.

Three tie for top honours at Pat Bradley tourney

HIGH POINT, N.C., Aug 7, (Reuter): Tournament namesake Pat Bradley birdied five holes and made no bogeys to tie Dorothy Germain and Jody Rosenthal as third-day winners with 15 points each yesterday.

The three will split \$15,000 in prize money for coming up with the highest totals under the unusual scoring system being used at this year's Pat Bradley International women's golf tourney.

Eagle

Players are awarded eight points for double eagles, five for an eagle and three for a birdie. No points are awarded for a par, while one point is subtracted for a bogey. A player loses three points for a double bogey or worse.

Bradley birdied four holes on the front nine, then added her fifth on the 16th hole for her 15

points.

"This has been a different week for me," said Bradley. "There has been a lot of pressure on me, but in a way I think this has helped me."

Germain, a local favourite, made six birdies but lost three points on bogeys.

"I started the round with a birdie," said Germain. "All week, I have not made a birdie until the back. That is the difference in today and my previous rounds."

Rosenthal also posted six birdies and three bogeys.

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COURSES COMMENCE ON 14/8/88

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Salem Mubarak St.
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FAHAHEEL
Mecca St.



Johnson crosses the finish line to win the 100 metres race. (Reuter wirephoto)

even thinking about Lewis during yesterday's race.

"My main goal is to get back into form," Johnson said. "My number one concern is to win the gold medal. Carl is going to be there. He says he's going to be the

man to beat. We will see."

Canadian sprint champion Angelle Issajenko won the women's 100 metres final in 11.01 and she had a few choice words for her American rival, Florence Griffith-Joyner.

"Everyone has good egos. Nobody wants to get together to work on it," she said.

In other highlights, Mark McCoy won the men's 110-metre hurdles in 13.25 and Simon Hoogewerf captured the men's 800 metres in 1:46.99.